



Applying for an EPO in Lethbridge

Navigating the Process

An Emergency Protection Order (EPO) is a court order under Alberta's Protection Against Family Violence Act that provides immediate, short-term protection to individuals experiencing family violence. It can restrict contact, communication, or proximity between the protected person and the respondent. **ONLINE:** <https://www.alberta.ca/get-emergency-protection-order>



ELIGIBILITY

An EPO:

- is only granted in situations of family violence
- can order a family member not to contact you and other family members
- can order a family member not to come to your home, school, work or other places

An EPO may be granted if:

- violent or threatening behaviour occurs between family members
- there is evidence that immediate protection is necessary
- there is reason to believe the family violence will resume or continue



APPLYING

The EPO application is available online or available at the courthouse. Printed copies are ready at V/WSU if you need help.

Contact locations/processes are different during the day, night and on weekends (see red bar below). Ensure you contact the correct office at the time you apply and be available to accept a return call as any evening or weekend processes will involve the courts calling you back. **YOU MUST ANSWER THE PHONE WHEN THEY CALL.**

After the form is submitted, if you do not qualify you will receive an email advising of that.



PROCESS

The Justice, whether in person or on the phone, will review your application, hear your statement which should describe past incidents and your feelings to assess your need as 'applicant' for protection. They will then review the information and decide whether to issue the EPO immediately. If granted, the EPO takes effect as soon as it is served to the respondent.

The Lethbridge Police Service or another police agency will serve the EPO on the respondent. **DO NOT SERVE THE EPO YOURSELF.** The order is not enforceable until it has been served.



ONCE GRANTED

The EPO must be **reviewed by a Court of King's Bench justice within 9 working days: it can be found at point #7 on the EPO.** The EPO may be revoked if you do not attend. To **request a NO COST lawyer to assist you at the review date, call 1-866-845-3425 ASAP** and advise you have an EPO. At the review hearing, the judge may:

- Confirm and extend the EPO.
- Replace it with a longer-term King's Bench Protection Order.
- Cancel the EPO if it is no longer needed.

If the respondent violates the EPO, call 911 immediately.

Violating an EPO is a criminal offence and can result in arrest and charges.

WHERE TO FILE YOUR EPO BASED ON TIME OF APPLICATION

Monday-Friday 8:15am-4pm

Paper forms can be submitted at the courthouse to make the application

Weekday Evenings 4-11 pm

Email completed online form to Edmonton or Calgary Hearing offices with picture of ID

Weekday Night 11 pm-7am

Email completed online form to Calgary Hearing offices with picture of ID

Weekend & Stats 8am-11pm

Email completed online form to Calgary Hearing offices with picture of ID