

PROTECTION ORDERS

PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT ACT 2014

WHAT CAN A PROTECTION ORDER DO?

- Order the harasser to stop the harassing behaviour.
- Stop the spread of harassing communication by other persons who republish the communication.



The court may also order parties to attend counselling or mediation. In urgent cases, you may be able to get an **Expedited Protection Order**.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PROTECTION ORDER?



STEP 1: APPLY



- Go to the **Community Justice and Tribunals Division** (Level 1 of State Courts), to submit a **formal court application** by filing an Originating Summons and an affirmed affidavit.

TIP These forms have to be typewritten. You can download the forms from www.statecourts.gov.sg, and complete them beforehand. Alternatively, you may use a **self-help kiosk** located in the Community Justice and Tribunals Division to type the forms. You may wish to bring along your own thumb-drive to save your work.

Please bring along:

- Your Identity Card or other forms of personal identification: and
- Evidence of the harassing act (e.g. witnesses, photographs, police and/or medical reports, printouts of emails, blogs, websites, photographs). Documents must be translated into English by certified translators and evidence in electronic form should be stored in read-only CD-ROM in duplicate when submitting to Court.

- You will be asked to **appear before a Judge**, who will consider your application.
- If you applied for an **Expedited Protection Order**, it may be heard at this time or on a later date. If the necessary conditions are satisfied, the court may grant you the order.
- The Judge will direct you to **serve the application** on the person you say is harassing you. You may also need to serve the application on people who you say are re-publishing the harassing communication. The Judge will tell you how you should serve the application, and when you must do this by.
- The Judge will also give a **Pre-Trial Conference date** for all parties to attend.

STEP 2: INFORM



- You must **serve the application** (and **Expedited Protection Order**, if granted) on the necessary persons as directed by the court. The Expedited Protection Order takes effect only after it has been successfully served.
- After serving the court documents, you have to file an **affidavit of service** at the Community Justice and Tribunals Division to confirm that service was done and to show proof (e.g. a printout of the email if the documents were served by email).
- The other parties may then file an **affidavit in reply** to your application.

STEP 3: COURT HEARING



- If the court fixes a **Pre-Trial Conference** (PTC), all parties must attend the PTC. The Judge may refer parties for **mediation** to explore an amicable settlement, or for **counselling**. If the case settles at mediation, the case is concluded.
- If the case cannot be settled, a hearing date will be given to you. On the **day of the hearing**, you must bring all your evidence.
- If the Judge grants a **Protection Order**, you must:
 - **Serve** it on the other parties as directed by the Judge.
 - Where the Protection Order involves the removal of offending communication, a **Notification** must be filed and thereafter served with the Order.
 - File an **affidavit of service** at the Community Justice and Tribunals Division.
- The Protection Order **takes effect** only after it has been successfully served.
- The **breach of a Protection Order** is a serious matter and can amount to a criminal offence with a maximum fine of \$5,000 or up to 6 months' imprisonment or both.

FEES

Filing each Originating Summons	\$100
Affirming each Affidavit (with 1 exhibit)	Starts from \$15
Filing each Affidavit	Starts from \$10
Hearing	\$250 per day after the first day

*Further Electronic Filing Services and manual handling charges may apply.