

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

**1 Person Seeking Protection**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Person From Whom Protection Is Sought**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Notice to Server**

The server must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Not be listed in items ① or ③ of form CH-100.
- Give a copy of all documents checked in ④ to the person in ②. (You cannot send them by mail.) Then complete and sign this form and give or mail it to the person in ①.



Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of \_\_\_\_\_

Court fills in case number when form is filed.

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF PERSONAL SERVICE****4 I gave the person in ② a copy of the forms checked below:**

- a. ☐ CH-109, *Notice of Court Hearing*
- b. ☐ CH-110, *Temporary Restraining Order*
- c. ☐ CH-100, *Request for Civil Harassment Restraining Orders*
- d. ☐ CH-120, *Response to Request for Civil Harassment Restraining Orders* (blank form)
- e. ☐ CH-120-INFO, *How Can I Respond to a Request for Civil Harassment Restraining Orders?*
- f. ☐ CH-130, *Civil Harassment Restraining Order After Hearing*
- g. ☐ CH-250, *Proof of Service by Mail* (blank form)
- h. ☐ CH-800, *Receipt for Firearms and Firearm Parts* (blank form)
- i. ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**5 I personally gave copies of the documents checked above to the person in ②:**

- a. On (date): \_\_\_\_\_ b. At (time): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m.
- c. At this address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**6 Server's Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are a registered process server):

County of registration: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information above is true and correct.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Type or print server's name

Server to sign here

## What is "service"?

Service is the act of giving your court papers to the other party in your case. There are different ways to serve the other party: in person, by mail, and others.

## Why do my court papers need to be served?

Before a judge can grant a civil harassment restraining order (that can last up to five years), the person you want a restraining order against must know about your request and have a chance to go to court to explain their side. Also, if a restraining order is in place, the police cannot arrest the restrained person for violating the restraining order until the restrained person is served with the order.

## What is "personal service"?

Personal service is when someone, known as a server, personally delivers your court papers to the other party. In most cases, these forms must be served on the other party by personal service:

- ▶ Form CH-109;
- ▶ Form CH-100;
- ▶ Form CH-110;
- ▶ Form CH-120 (leave this form blank);
- ▶ Form CH-120-INFO; and
- ▶ Form CH-250 (leave this form blank).

## Who can serve my court papers?

Any adult who is not protected by the restraining order can serve your court papers. **You cannot serve your own court papers.**



Some situations may be dangerous. Think about people's safety when deciding who you want to serve your papers.

A sheriff or marshal will serve your court papers for free if:

- The court granted you a fee waiver; or
- The restraining order is based on stalking, violence, or a credible threat of violence.

A registered process server is a business you pay to deliver papers. To hire a process server, look for "process server" on the internet or in the yellow pages.

## How do I have my court papers served?

### ○ Step 1: Choose a server

The person who gives your court papers to the other party is called a server. Your server must be at least 18-years-old. They must not be protected by the restraining order or involved in your case. This means that you cannot serve your own court papers.

### ○ Step 2: Have your server give your court papers to the other party

Give your server these instructions:

- ① Before you serve the forms, note which forms you have, including the name of the form and the form number. See form CH-200 for a list of forms.
- ② Find the person you need to serve. Make sure you are serving the right person by asking the person's name.
- ③ Give the person the papers. If the person refuses to take the papers, put them on the ground or somewhere next to the person. The person doesn't have to touch or sign for the papers. It is okay if they tear them up.
- ④ Fill out form CH-200 completely and sign.
- ⑤ File form CH-200 with the court or give form CH-200 to the person who is asking for the restraining order so they can file it.

### ○ Step 3: File proof with the court

The court needs proof that service happened and that it was done correctly. If your server was successful, have your server fully complete and sign form CH-200. **The person you want restrained does not sign anything.**

File form CH-200 with the court in your case as soon as possible. This information will automatically go into a restraining order database that police have access to.

If the sheriff or marshal served your court papers, they may use another form for proof besides form CH-200. Make sure a copy is filed with the court and that you get a copy.

### When is the deadline to serve my court papers?

It depends. To know the exact date, you need to look at two items on form CH-109. Follow these steps:

- **Step 1: Look at the court date listed under ③ on page 1.**

③ **Notice of Court Hearing**  
A court hearing is scheduled on

Hearing Date	Date: _____
	Dept.: _____

- **Step 2: Look at the number of days written in ⑥ on page 2.**

⑥ **Service of Documents by the Person**  
At least ☐ five ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ days before the

- **Step 3: Look at a calendar.** Subtract the number of days in ⑥ from the court date. That's the deadline to have your court papers served. It's okay to serve your court papers before the deadline.

If nothing is written in ⑥, you must have your court papers served at least five days before your court date.

### What happens if I can't get my court papers served before the court date?

You will need to ask the court to reschedule (continue) your court date. Fill out and file form CH-115 and form CH-116. These forms ask the judge for a new court date and to make any temporary orders last until the end of the new court date.

If the judge gives you a new court date, the person you want restrained will have to be served with form CH-115, form CH-116, and the original papers you filed. You should keep a copy of form CH-115, form CH-116, and a copy of your original paperwork. That way, the police will know your orders are still in effect.

For more information on asking for a new court date, read form CH-115-INFO.

### What if the other party is avoiding (evading) service or cannot be located?

If you've tried many times to serve the the restrained person, and you can show the judge that the restrained person is avoiding (evading) service or cannot be located, you may ask the court to allow you to serve another way. If you want to make this request, at your first court date tell the judge details about your attempts to have the restrained person served. The judge may require a written statement for this.

Read form CH-205-INFO, *What If the Person I Want Protection from Is Avoiding (Evading) Service or Cannot Be Located?*, for more information.

## **Why do I have to serve the restrained person?**

Before a judge can grant a civil harassment restraining order (that can last up to five years), the person you want a restraining order against must know about your request and have a chance to go to court to explain their side. In most cases, the judge will require that you have someone personally deliver the papers to the person you want restrained. This is called personal service. See form CH-200-INFO for more information.

## **What if I already have a civil harassment restraining order?**

If a judge granted you a civil harassment restraining order on form CH-130, alternative service is not an option for you. Follow the orders for service on form CH-130. It is important to follow the orders for service because this is how the restrained person will find out about the restraining orders. Once you file proof that the restrained person was served, law enforcement and the court will have proof that the restrained person knows about the orders. If you have questions about what the judge ordered in your case, see page 2 for where to get legal help.

## **What if I can't personally serve the restrained person?**

When you cannot personally serve the restrained person with a copy of form CH-100 and related papers, a judge may allow you to give, or serve, the restraining order papers another way. This is called alternative service. The judge could order you to have your server give the restrained person your court papers in more than one way.

If you want to request alternative service, at your court date tell the judge details about your attempts to have the restrained person served. To qualify for alternative service, you must show the judge at least two things.

### **1 You have tried many times (usually 3 or more times) to have someone personally serve the restrained person.**

Some examples of ways you can try to have the restrained person personally served:

- ▶ Serve the restrained person at home, their workplace, or somewhere they go a lot.
- ▶ Search online for where they may be located.
- ▶ Check with their family and friends.



Make sure any attempts to find the restrained person are done safely.

If you have an address for the restrained person, you can ask the sheriff or marshal to serve your papers, which they will do for free if:

- The court granted you a fee waiver; or
- The restraining order is based on stalking, violence, or a credible threat of violence.

### **2 You believe the restrained person is avoiding (evading) personal service or cannot be located.**

Be ready to explain why you think the restrained person is avoiding service or cannot be located. If you have people who will help you prove this to a judge, bring them to your court hearing or have them write a statement that describes what they witnessed. Form MC-030 may be used for this purpose.

**Alternative service may involve other people having access to your court papers.**

This will mean they can see your name, the fact that you want a restraining order against the other party, and possibly your statements regarding the abuse. You may want to talk to an advocate about your safety and privacy concerns before you consider this request.

**What is substituted service?**

The judge may order you to perform substituted service at the restrained person's home or workplace, or, if no physical address is known, the restrained person's usual mailing address (other than a post office box; a private mailbox with a commercial business may be okay). Substituted service requires your server to follow these steps:

1. Give the papers to someone 18 years or older who lives at the restrained person's home or usual mailing address (that is not a P.O. box), or who appears to be in charge at the restrained person's workplace. If the only address reasonably known for the restrained person is a private mailbox with a commercial mail receiving agency, give the papers to someone 18 years or older who appears to be in charge.
2. Get the name of the adult who got the papers, and tell the adult that the papers are for a request for a restraining order against the restrained person.
3. Mail the papers to the restrained person's home, workplace, or usual mailing address. (This step is not required if the papers were given to a person in charge of the commercial mail receiving agency where the restrained person has a private mailbox.)
4. Follow the instructions for completing and filing a proof of service as ordered in item 1(d) on form CH-117.

**What is service by publication?**

The judge may also order you to serve the restrained person by publication. This means that you would have to pay a newspaper to publish a copy of whatever papers the judge orders you to have published at least once a week, for at least four weeks in a row. The judge would approve a newspaper that would have the best chances of the restrained person seeing it. Follow the orders made by the judge, which will usually be found on form CH-117.

After the newspaper publishes your court papers, make sure you get a signed statement from the newspaper that includes a copy of what was published in the newspaper and when it was published. This statement is usually called "Proof of Publication." After you receive this statement, file it with the court in your case.

**May I serve by email or electronically?**

To serve someone electronically, like by email or text message, the person you are serving has to agree to being served electronically or the judge has to order electronic service. If the person is avoiding service, it is unlikely that they will agree to being served electronically. If the judge orders you to serve the restrained person electronically, follow all the instructions of the judge, which will usually be found on form CH-117, including any orders to also provide additional forms of service, such as substituted service or publication.

**Where can I find legal help?**

Free legal information is available in every county at a court self-help center. Staff can provide you with your legal options but will not tell you what you should do in your case and will not provide you with legal representation. To find your local self-help center, go to [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp).