

Requesting a hearing to change (modify) or terminate (rescind) a No-Contact Order

There are 2 forms that need to be completed to request a change to a no-contact order. These are legal documents signed under penalty of perjury, and the motion form will appear on the court's public "ECF Portal" (website). The address form can be kept private from the public if requested, but both may be viewable to the defendant (person charged with a crime). The No-Contact Order process is not the appropriate time to discuss facts of the case.

Step #1

You must first complete the "Protected Person's Motion to Modify/Rescind Domestic Violence No-Contact Order". You are the protected person and the defendant is the person you want contact with. Court staff can assist you with the case number and date the order was signed, but cannot give legal advice. Please explain your reasons for wanting contact in the statement area. If you would like a change or modification (e.g. telephone or email contact for financial or childcare purposes) please list that as well.

Step #2

Complete the "Protected Persons Address Form" with your name and either a mailing or email address, and check the box indicating how you wish to be notified. **If you would like to keep your address confidential**, you must indicate that there is a possibility of further violence. Please note your address may be shared with the defendant's lawyer.

Step #3

Completed requests must be filed with the Seattle Municipal Court. You may mail or hand deliver completed forms to:

Seattle Municipal Court
Records Office, 3rd Floor
600 5th Ave, PO Box 34987
Seattle, WA 98124-4987

If hand delivering, be sure to stamp the copies with the receipt date and put them in the self filing box.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once received, the Judge will review your request and either 1) deny the motion without a hearing or 2) schedule a hearing. The defendant and attorneys will be notified of any hearing date. At the hearing, you will have an opportunity to explain to the Judge why the order should be terminated ("rescinded") or changed ("modified").

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT REQUESTING A CHANGE OR BEING GRANTED A HEARING DOES NOT MEAN THE JUDGE WILL TERMINATE OR CHANGE YOUR ORDER.

MAY I SELECT THE DATE FOR THE HEARING?

Typically, requests to change or terminate orders are heard Thursdays at 11:00am. You may include dates of availability or unavailability in your statement. Although the court may consider your request, there is no guarantee that a hearing on the date requested will be granted. Also keep in mind, the Judge may request additional information about this case from a Probation Officer or Treatment Agency and this could impact when the hearing is set. If you don't receive a response within 2 weeks, call the court 206-684-5600 to inquire.

MAY I REQUEST AN INTERPRETER OR OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS?

Please include any special needs or accommodations in your request. If you need an interpreter, please indicate this request and the language on the form. The court will make every effort to accommodate special needs. **You may complete the form in your native language and it will be translated for the Judge.**

SAFETY PLAN

At the hearing, the Judge may ask if you have a safety plan. Safety planning is important even if you do not believe violence will occur again. If you would like help with a safety plan, please call your advocate at 206-684-7757.

An advocate will meet you at the hearing to assist you on that day. If you would like an advocate to assist you with these forms you may ask the clerk to call your advocate, or you can call 206-684-7757.