



Protection Orders Fact Sheet

Three types of protection orders are issued by Minnesota courts: Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders (DANCO), Orders for Protection (OFP), and Harassment Restraining Orders (HRO). The key differences between them are the issuing court and initiating party and how the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) tracks them.

	Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO)	Order for Protection (OFP)	Harassment Restraining Order (HRO)
Order Type	Criminal	Civil/Family	Civil
Initiated By	State/Prosecutor	Petitioner	Petitioner
Data passed to BCA	Minimal fields for a Hot Files entry	Full text (all findings and conditions)	Minimal fields for a Hot Files entry (supplemented by document)
Document passed to BCA	No	No	Yes
Hit confirmation required by law enforcement	Yes	No	No

Any person search through Portals – e.g. QDP, QP, QPO – or a comparable person search through a vendor-provided mobile/CAD/RMS connection to LEMS will return a protection order.

Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders

Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders (DANCO) are issued as part of a criminal case and are automatically submitted by Minnesota criminal courts to the BCA. The information populates both the Minnesota and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Protection Order Hot Files.

- Minnesota statute § 299C.46 requires that DANCOs be available through the Hot Files. To assist with enforcement, DANCO files must include a photo of the offender whenever possible which has been verified by the court. Unless the court prohibits it, law enforcement may provide a copy of the photo to the victim along with the data describing the no contact order to help enforce the order. The photo cannot be disclosed to the public. DANCOs are automatically passed from MNCIS to the BCA for inclusion in the Hot Files upon entry. All DANCOs are entered as “served” because a DANCO is issued as part of a criminal proceeding when the respondent (defendant) is present.
- All DANCOs have the Brady Indicator Flag set as “U” - Unknown, meaning the federal firearm prohibition is NOT invoked for these records.
- The court only sends one NCIC condition code which translates to “NC” for No Contact and “XW” for excluded from protected party’s workplace.
- Race data is marked “U” for unknown. The Miscellaneous field (MIS) at the end of the record will indicate whether the no contact order was issued as an interim, sentence, or juvenile order.

Orders for Protection

Orders for Protection (OFP) are issued through a civil process at the request of a petitioner. The OFP may be issued to protect the petitioner as well as minor children or others under the guardianship of the petitioner. An OFP is entered in MNCIS and automatically passed to the BCA. The BCA passes the data to NCIC.

An OFP in Hot Files contains all information needed for service and enforcement of the OFP. All protected persons, respondent conditions, and findings of the OFP are included within the record in Hot Files. OFPs are validated electronically and so a hit confirmation is not required. The presence of an OFP within Hot Files indicates the OFP is active and valid.

Harassment Restraining Orders

Harassment Restraining Orders (HRO) have been available in Minnesota Hot Files since December 2019.

HRO "hits" in Hot Files display basic information including respondent and protected party names and dates of birth, issued and expiration dates, and a general condition. An HRO hit also includes a PDF attachment that contains full details and conditions of the HRO. An HRO may have more than one attachment. An Order for Continuance will be attached when an existing HRO remains active but the court has granted a continuance. Law enforcement will also see a Law Enforcement Information Sheet for unserved orders. These contain respondent information that may aid in completing service. The sheet will not display after service is completed. All attachments must be reviewed to learn all of the details of the HRO.

The BCA recommends that agencies review protective orders in MN Hot Files rather than NCIC to see the most information. NCIC does not include the HRO attachments available in MN Hot Files. Also, while NCIC only shows served OFPs and HROs, MN Hot Files may display both a served and unserved orders to ensure enforcement is based upon the served order, while also showing that there is a modified order that must be served on the respondent. Once the unserved modified order is served, MN Hot Files only display the served (most recent) order. The newly served order will also display in NCIC.

Service of OFPs and HROs

Service of OFPs and HROs may occur at court when the respondent is present or by law enforcement or corrections officials after its issuance. Following service, sheriff's office personnel must file an affidavit of service. Other law enforcement and corrections or probation officials may serve the order using the Short Form Notification. Regardless of the method of service, the Hot File should be updated as soon as possible to show the service is completed. Enter the service information into Portals using the SPO message key. Any law enforcement agency may enter an SPO.

Training Available

Protective Order Training is available on CJIS Launch Pad. Please contact the BCA Service Desk, bca.servicedesk@state.mn.us, 651-793-2500 or 888-234-1119, with any questions about protective order availability in Hot Files or about what your vendor must do to display the HRO documents in vendor-provided software used to query Hot Files.