

Interjurisdictional Service in
Puerto Rico
A Resource from the
Pandemic Rapid Response Team

December 2022



	Ex Parte Protective Order (Temporary/Emergency)	Final Protective Order
Statute	Laws of Puerto Rico 8 § 29 (Ley para la Prevención e Intervención con la Violencia Doméstica, Ley Núm. 54 de 15 de agosto de 1989, según enmendada, 8 LPRA sec. 621-629 ¹)	
Terminology	Ex Parte Order for Protection	Permanent Order for Protection
Length of Order	Up to 20 days after filing the petition.	As ordered by the court.
Available Relief	<p>Order the respondent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrender firearms or license to carry firearms • Leave the dwelling shared with the petitioner • Refrain from molesting, harassing, pursuing, intimidating, threatening or interfering in any way with custody of minor children • Refrain from entering any place in which the petitioner is when needed, at the discretion of the court, to prevent the respondent from molesting, intimidating, threatening or interfering with the petitioner or minor children • Pay child support and other financial compensation for expenses related to the domestic abuse • Refrain from removing or concealing minor children • Refrain from disposing the petitioner’s property or joint property <p>Grant the petitioner possession of the dwelling, regardless of ownership.</p> <p>The court may also order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary custody/visitation rights • Possession of personal property • Other relief 	

¹ Domestic Abuse Prevention and Intervention Act, Act No. 54 of August 15, 1989, as amended, 8 LPRA sec. 621-629

Protected Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current or former spouse • Currently or formerly cohabitating • Currently or formerly in a consensual relationship • Have child in common
Requirements for Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The court will send the order to law enforcement • Law enforcement will enter the order into the domestic abuse and stalking restraining orders electronic file • The order may be personally served on the respondent by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A marshal of the court ○ Law enforcement ○ An adult not a party to the case (per petitioner’s request)
Registration Required for Enforcement	Not required.
Military Jurisdictions	<p>Military Bases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 156th AW <p>Processes on Military Jurisdictions: Contact the individual military jurisdiction for service process details.</p>
Tribal Jurisdictions	<p>Federally Recognized Tribe: None</p> <p>State Recognized Tribes: None</p>
Other Information	None

Out of State Service Fees²:

None

For more information, please contact State Point of Contact Carmen Sanfeliz Ramos (carmen.sanfeliz@ramajudicial.pr).

If you would like to provide suggestions/feedback on this Profile, visit:

https://ncsc2.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eQzzYCcGK38Q64C

² Courts should not charge a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault any costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, or service of protection orders, whether issued by civil or criminal courts, including intra- and inter-jurisdictional orders. This no-cost provision also applies to any fees or costs associated with a criminal matter related to domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault (42 U.S.C. § 3796 hh(c)(4)). Charging any of these costs will render a jurisdiction ineligible for certain VAWA funds.