

Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

Who Can Ask for it?	Elements/ Definitions	Burden of proof	Duration	Authorizing Statutes	How to Obtain in Contra Costa County
<p>Spouse or former spouse; cohabitant or former cohabitant as defined in Fam. Code 6209; a person with a past or present dating relationship; a person with whom the respondent has had a child; any other person related by consanguinity or affinity within the second degree (blood relatives, in-laws, and step-relationships)</p>	<p>Only need to prove a past act of abuse (likelihood of future harm is not required), as defined by the DVPA. Abuse can be spoken, written, physical, sexual, or emotional; it includes threats to harm you or your family, stalking, harassment, destroying personal property, repeated contact, and “disturbing the peace” (“to destroy someone’s mental or emotional calm”; includes coercive control)</p>	<p>Preponderance of the evidence</p>	<p>Up to 5 years; may be renewed for 5+ additional years or permanently.</p>	<p>DVPA (Fam. Code § 6200 et. Seq.)</p>	<p>All DVRO requests may be submitted as a PDF to familylawemergency@contracosta.courts.ca.gov.</p> <p>If Petitioner lives in West County, is not married to Respondent, and does not have children with Respondent, then you may submit your request to the George D. Carroll Courthouse, 100 37th St, Richmond, in person or drop box from 8 am to 4 pm, or via mail.</p> <p>If Petitioner lives in East County, is not married to Respondent, and does not have children with Respondent, then you may submit your request to the Richard E. Arnason Justice Center, 1000 Center Dr., Pittsburg, in person or drop box from 8 am to 4 pm, or via mail.</p> <p>All other cases (involving shared children or married parties, or residents of Central County) must be submitted at Spinetta Family Law Center, 751 Pine St., Martinez, in person or drop box from 8 am to 4 pm, or via mail.</p>