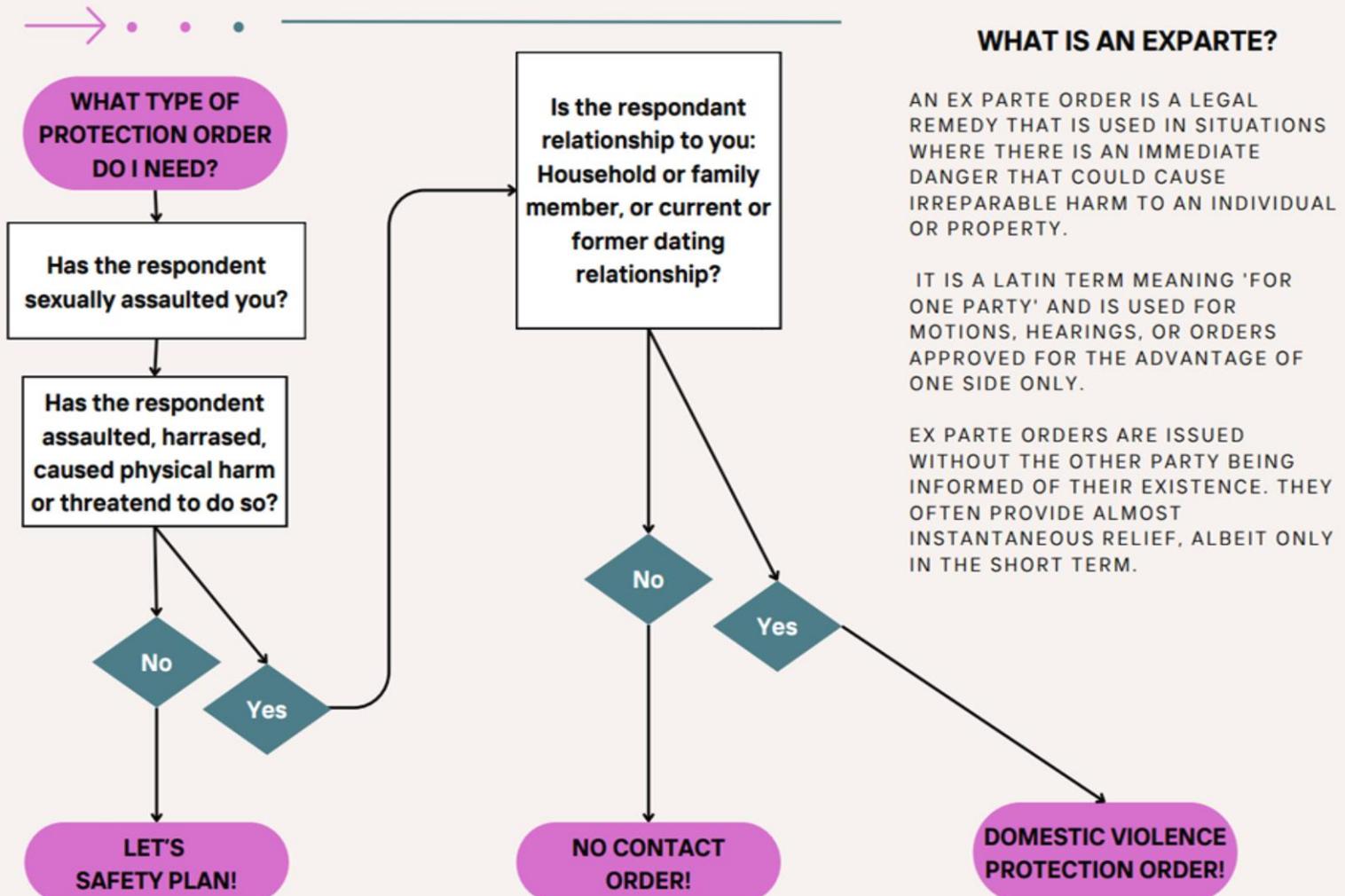


Onslow Victims Center

DOES THE CLIENT NEED A DVPO OR NO CONTACT ORDER?



What to expect when Requesting a Protection Order?

What do I need to know about preparing to file for a protection order?

- It is ideal to have address of the defendant. Service will be delayed if the address is not provided.
- It is ideal to have court or arrest dates to provide for the DVPO paperwork.
- Exparte orders are for the short term. **Short term** means until the judge decides otherwise or until the hearings are completed and a verdict entered.

How should I prepare for court?

- Cellphones are prohibited.
- Court may last all day or half a day.
- If you have young children, arrange for their care during the time you will be in court.
- Gather evidence for your case. Print out evidence stored on your phone, such as pictures. Unless your attorney instructs you otherwise, bring with you any evidence, such as documents you want the court to consider, and any witnesses who plan to testify for you. Once your trial starts, the judge will generally not stop the trial to allow you to get evidence or witnesses that are not in court.

What should I do on the day of court?

- Dress Codes are enforced. Dress to show respect for the court. Temperatures in courtrooms can vary, so dress in layers to ensure that you are comfortable.
- Arrive early to make sure you have time to park, go through security and be in the courtroom by the time court begins.
- Bring the court documents related to your case with you, as well as any evidence you plan to present.
- Bring a pencil and paper to court with you. You may need to take notes about your case or to write down your next court date if the case is “continued,” or postponed.
- Be prepared to wait several hours for your case to be heard. You may wish to bring a book or magazine to read while waiting.
- Show respect for the court, for courthouse staff, and for other litigants. It is appropriate to address a judge as “Your Honor” or “Judge.”