

Questions for exploring the pros and cons of applying for a civil protective order

1. How do you think the other person will react if you apply for a protective order?
2. Do you think the other person is likely to obey the order?
3. Are you trying to keep your current location confidential from the other person? (Applying for an order will alert the other person to your county & state at a minimum.)
4. How will getting a protective order affect your:
 - a. Financial stability?
 - b. Housing arrangements? (e.g., with landlord or mortgage payment)
 - c. Employment? (yours or the other person's)
 - d. Children's school or daycare?
 - e. Other court cases? (e.g., child custody case, immigration case, criminal case against you)?
5. Is CPS or another agency or person pressuring you to apply for an order? What will happen if you don't comply?
6. Do you think the other person will hire a lawyer? How do you feel about that?
7. What do you think will happen if the judge denies the order?
8. Do you need help accessing the court? For example:
 - a. Do you need help to understand the court forms and instructions and to participate in the court hearings (including language interpretation)?
 - b. Can you get into and around the courthouse building?
 - c. Do you need help with transportation, childcare or negotiating time off from work to get to court?
 - d. Do you have safety concerns about being at the courthouse if the other person is there?
9. What else do you think would help increase your safety and well-being?
10. What other questions or concerns do you have?