



OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL **LEGAL ASSISTANCE POLICY DIVISION**



MILITARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS

A DD Form 2873, Military Protective Order (MPO) is a written lawful order issued by a commander that orders a Soldier to avoid contact with those persons identified in the order. MPOs may be used to facilitate a “cooling-off” period following domestic violence and sexual assault incidents, to include incidents involving children. The commander should provide a written copy of the order within 24 hours of its issuance to the person with whom the member is ordered not to have contact and to the installation LE activity.

Protective orders can be issued verbally or in writing. The orders are most commonly in writing on a DD Form 2873. The Department of Defense Instruction on the matter, and the DD Form 2873, clearly state that the MPO is intended to:

- Safeguard victims;
- Quell disturbances; and
- Maintain good order and discipline while victims have time to pursue protection orders through civilian courts.

Protective orders are often indefinite or until the CDR terminate the order. 10 USC § 1567 states: “A military protective order issued by a military commander shall remain in effect until such time as the military commander terminates the order or issues a replacement order.”

What are examples of things that a MPO can restrict?

They will order a service member to maintain a certain distance from an alleged victim and prohibit communications either directly or through a third party.

Can the County or State Police enforce an MPO?

These orders are not subject to enforcement by civilian authorities and do not prevent a subject from possessing or purchasing firearms. For MPOs, these limitations must be explained to the protected person; further, commanders must advise any protected person desiring protection off base to seek a civilian protective order and direct them to the appropriate victim support service.

For more information on military protective orders or civilian protective orders, please contact your local legal assistance office to speak with an attorney.

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