

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A RESTRAINING ORDER?

### ABUSE PREVENTION ORDERS 209A

You may request an Abuse Prevention Order (a “209A”) from Probate or District Court if:

1. You and your abuser are or were:
  - a. married,
  - b. or residing together in the same household,
  - c. or in a substantive dating or engagement relationship,
  - d. or related by blood or marriage,
  - e. or you have a child in common;
2. and you are suffering from abuse because your abuser has:
  - a. harmed or attempted to harm you physically,
  - b. or put you in fear of imminent serious physical harm,
  - c. or caused you to engage in sexual relations involuntarily by using force, threat or duress;
3. and you:
  - a. currently live within the geographical area of the court in you file the complaint.
  - b. or used to live within the geographical area of the court in which you filed the complaint, but you left to avoid abuse.

### HARASSMENT PREVENTION ORDERS

You may request a Harassment Prevention Order (a “258E”) from District Court if:

1. You are suffering from harassment because:
  - a. someone has committed 3 or more acts:
    - i. That were willful and malicious,  
*“Malicious” means characterized by cruelty; hostility or revenge.*
    - ii. and were aimed at you,
    - iii. and were intended to cause you fear, intimidation, abuse or damage to property,  
*“Abuse” means causing or attempting to cause physical harm, or causing fear of imminent serious physical harm.*
    - iv. and did in fact cause you fear, intimidation, abuse or damage to property;
  - b. or someone has caused you at least once to engage in sexual relations involuntarily by using force, threat or duress;
  - c. or someone has committed against you at least once an act that violates the statutes of indecent assault and battery, rape, statutory rape, assault with intent to rape, enticing a child, criminal stalking, criminal harassment, or drugging for sexual intercourse;
2. and you currently live within the geographical area of the course in which you file the complaint.