

Information to consider including in your petition for an Adult Order of Protection

The list below includes relationship history and behaviors of an abusive partner that can mean that their victim is at higher risk of more violence. When filling out your paperwork, if the respondent has done any of these things, you may want to include details about these behaviors for the judge. This can help the judge understand the level of danger in your situation. **Please remember that anything you include on your petition will be given to the respondent.** Use your best judgement about whether information you include may place you in danger from the respondent.

- The respondent has ever been physically violent with you, especially during a pregnancy. **If the respondent has ever strangled or choked you, or otherwise made it hard for you to breathe, you may be at higher risk of future violence, including being killed.**
- The respondent has made threats to kill or hurt you.
- The respondent has ever used or threatened to use a weapon against you. **If the respondent owns or has access to guns, this may increase your risk of future violence.**
- The respondent has made you or pressured you to have sex or sexual contact when you did not want to.
- The respondent has stalked you. This might include keeping track of your every move, following you, tracking your phone or car, showing up where you are, or repeatedly trying to contact you.
- You've tried to leave them before, or you are or have been afraid of what the respondent might do if you left the relationship.
- The respondent controls or tries to control any part of your daily activities. This might include not letting you speak to friends or family, not letting you leave, or making rules you have to follow.
- The respondent has ever been charged or convicted of any crime involving domestic violence against you.
- The violence, stalking, harassment, or control has become worse recently.

If you have experienced any of these behaviors in your relationship, please consider reaching out to community resources for help with safety and support. Advocates may be available in the filing office to assist with resources. Below are a few places in the community that can help.

Safe Connections: 314-531-2003 (24-hr) | safeconnections.org

ALIVE: 314-993-2777 (24-hr) | alivestl.org

YWCA: 314-531-7273 (24-hr) | ywcastl.org/what-were-doing/womens-resource-center