

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORIDA SUPREME COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW
FORM 12.980(t), PETITION FOR INJUNCTION FOR
PROTECTION AGAINST STALKING (05/13)**

When should this form be used?

If you are a victim of stalking, you can use this form to ask the court for a protective order prohibiting stalking. Stalking means the repeated following, harassment, or cyberstalking of one person by another. Cyberstalk means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

Because you are making a request to the court, you are called the **petitioner**. The person whom you are asking the court to protect you from is called the **respondent**. If you are under the age of eighteen and have never been married or had the disabilities of nonage removed by a court, and are living at home, one of your parents or your legal guardian must sign this petition on your behalf.

The parent or legal guardian of any minor child *who is living at home* may seek an injunction for protection against stalking on behalf of the minor child.

If the respondent is your **spouse**, former spouse, related to you by blood or marriage, living with you now or has lived with you in the past (if you are or were living as a family), or the other parent of your child(ren), whether or not you have ever been married or ever lived together, you may, instead, choose to use the **Petition for Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(a), rather than this form.

This form should be typed or printed in black ink. You should complete this form (giving as much detail as possible) and sign it in the presence of a notary or in front of the **clerk of the circuit court** in one of the following: the circuit where you currently or temporarily reside; the circuit where the respondent resides; or the circuit where the stalking occurred. The clerk will take your completed petition to a **judge**. You should keep a copy for your records. If you have any questions or need assistance completing this form, the clerk or **family law intake staff** will help you. There is no filing fee for a petition for protection against stalking.

What should I do if the judge grants my petition?

If the facts contained in your petition convince the judge that stalking or cyberstalking exists, the judge will sign a **Temporary Injunction for Protection Against Stalking**, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.980(u). A temporary injunction is issued without notice to the respondent. The clerk will give your **petition**, the temporary injunction, and any other papers filed with your petition to the sheriff or other law enforcement officer for **personal service** on the respondent. The temporary injunction will take effect immediately after the respondent is served with a copy of it. It lasts until a **hearing** can be held or for a period of 15 days, whichever comes first.