



## Key Message

Interpersonal violence is a pattern of harmful behavior in which one person uses various forms of abuse to assert power and control over another. States can further protect victims of interpersonal violence by enhancing statutes that increase accessibility to civilian protection orders for victims and mandating reciprocal information sharing between military and civilian law enforcement authorities.

## Analysis

Addressing issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, abuse and harassment within the military is important for maintaining a focused and ready force. The department has expanded protection, access to justice and victim support services to assist those impacted by interpersonal violence through specialized resources such as counseling, advocacy and legal assistance.

States can further enhance support for victims of interpersonal violence through the adoption of the following policies:

- Expressly state in law or policy the admittance of military protective orders as evidence when applying for civilian orders of temporary protection from abuse is permitted.
- Enhance information sharing between civilian and military law enforcement by requiring civilian law enforcement officers to notify military authorities that a military member may have violated a military protective order.

## Best Practices

1. **Expressly state in law or policy the admittance of military protective orders as evidence when applying for civilian orders of temporary protection from abuse is permitted.**

### EXAMPLES:

#### Chapter 531 of 2025 General Laws of Maryland

[https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/Chapters\\_noln/CH\\_531\\_sb0273t.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/Chapters_noln/CH_531_sb0273t.pdf)

“‘Temporary peace order’ means a peace order issued by a judge under 1 § 3-1504 of this subtitle. 3-1504.

(a) (1) **(I)** If after a hearing on a petition, whether ex parte or otherwise, a judge finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent has committed, and is likely to commit in the future, an act specified in § 3-1503(a) of this subtitle against the petitioner or the petitioner’s employee, the judge may issue a temporary peace order to protect the petitioner or the petitioner’s employee.



(II) In determining whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that a respondent has committed, and is likely to commit in the future, an act specified in § 3-1503(a) of this subtitle against the petitioner or the petitioner's employee, the judge may consider whether a military protection order has been issued against the respondent for the same or similar conduct against the same petitioner or the petitioner's employee."

#### Chapter 90 of 2025 Public Laws of Maine

<https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=118100>

"Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4651, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

**3-A. Military protective order.** "Military protective order" means a protection order issued pursuant to 10 United States Code, Section 1567 by a commanding officer of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard of any state, against a person under the officer's command.

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §4654, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 559, Pt. C, §§4 and 5, is further amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read: In making the determination required under paragraph A, the court may consider the existence of an active military protective order. [...]

**Sec. 7. 19-A MRSA §4108, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. A, §3 and affected by Pt. B, §65, is amended to read:

1. **Temporary orders.** The court may enter temporary orders authorized under subsection 2 that it considers necessary to protect a plaintiff or minor child from abuse, on good cause shown in an ex parte proceeding, which the court shall hear and determine as expeditiously as practicable after the filing of a complaint. Immediate and present danger of abuse to the plaintiff or minor child constitutes good cause. In determining whether good cause exists, the court may consider the existence of an active military protective order. A temporary order remains in effect pending a hearing pursuant to section 4109."
2. **Enhance information sharing between civilian and military law enforcement by requiring civilian law enforcement officers to notify military authorities that a military member may have violated a military protective order.**

#### EXAMPLES:

#### Chapter 531 of 2025 General Laws of Maryland

[https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/Chapters\\_noln/CH\\_531\\_sb0273t.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/Chapters_noln/CH_531_sb0273t.pdf)

"(2) If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that an individual described in paragraph (1) of this subsection is a service member in violation of a military protection order entered into the federal bureau of investigation's national crime information center database, the law enforcement officer shall notify the law enforcement agency that entered the military protection order into the database that the service member may have violated the military protection order."

**Virginia Senate Bill 751**

<https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20251/SB751/text/SB751>

*"F. If a law-enforcement officer determines a Military Protective Order registered in the National Crime Information Center Systems (NCIC), maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has been issued against any person who violates any provision of a protective order issued pursuant to § 16.1-253.1, 16.1-253.4, 16.1-278.14, or 16.1-279.1 or subsection B of § 20-103, who is a member of, or otherwise associated with, the Armed Forces of the United States, such officer shall notify the law-enforcement agency that entered the Military Protective Order into NCIC that the law-enforcement officer has probable cause to believe the person has violated the Military Protective Order. "Military Protective Order" means a protective order issued by a commanding officer in the Armed Forces of the United States, the Virginia National Guard, or the National Guard of any other state against a person under such officer's command."*