**General Information**

**Office:**

* Office hours M-F 8am to 4:30pm
* At JFJC, walk-ins only
* Appointments available for Order for Protections at the domestic abuse service center, [Bridges to Safety](http://bridgestosafety.org/). Call the Domestic Abuse/Harassment Office to schedule an appointment
* Civil Filing fees apply in harassment cases
* Qualified individuals may ask for the civil filing fee to be waived
* Court clerks **cannot** provide legal advice
* Petitioner must know the first and last name of the person s/he is filing against
* Bring addresses to serve respondent
* Child-friendly waiting area
* Secure building
* Spanish and Hmong speaking staff, interpreters available upon request/need
* Petitioners and Respondents must notify the office of any change of address or phone number
* Copies can be obtained by submitting the appropriate request form (and payment of fees, if applicable) and/or contacting the Domestic Abuse/Harassment office
* Violations of orders should be reported to police
* Addresses for Petitioner may remain confidential upon request
* Orders for Protection are confidential until served
* On-line tool to assist in drafting a [Petition for Harassment Restraining Order](http://www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp/?page=3836)

**Court**:

* Domestic Abuse/Harassment hearings are usually held at the JFJC, courtroom 5A
* Attorneys are not appointed, however parties may seek representation on their own
* Advocates may accompany parties as support in Court
* Court hearing calendars are usually held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
* AM calendar is generally reserved for initial/motions cases
* PM calendar is generally reserved for trials
* Parties need to plan on being in Court the entire morning or afternoon session.
* Requests to continue a hearing must be made in writing and are subject to approval by Judicial Officer
* Parties must appear for court hearings, regardless of service
* Conference rooms available
* Sheriff deputies are available for court protection
* Certified mediators may be available at harassment hearings