

# Shielding the Record in Domestic Violence Cases



*Zealous Advocacy with  
Holistic Services*

- Shielding is not the same as expungement.
- Peace Orders and Protective Orders are not criminal proceedings, they are civil. You may have a related criminal case; but shielding does not remove that case from public inspection. You will have to file for expungement.
- The information will not be removed from Domestic Violence Central Repository, a non-public data base.
- Some state and other persons can have access to shielded information.

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
DEFENDERS  
NORTHWEST**

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## Was a Peace Order or Protective Order Filed Against You?

## Was it Dismissed or Denied?

**THE PROBLEM** The information is readily available to the general public. Employers and landlords have easy access to this information. A simple computer search of the court data base, [www.casesearch.corts.state.md.us](http://www.casesearch.corts.state.md.us), will provide anyone with all the information about the case.

**THE SOLUTION:** The information may be shielded from public access and viewing. Shielding will remove the information from the court data base.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Only those cases that were denied or dismissed can be shielded. No domestic violence or criminal case can be pending between the parties. No previous peace or protective order have been granted between the parties. If the peace or protective order was granted, the information will not be shielded.

**PROCESS:** File a Request to Shield All Court Records relating to the case with the courts.