

~~~~

April 2020

It's dark outside, we are in shock, and have no idea what we are supposed to do next.

I looked at my 17 year old daughter (my daughter in Grad school left for the night to stay somewhere else...), our eyes and our hearts couldn't believe what happened. Our lives and peace as we had known, changed forever. Words still can not capture everything.

Earlier in the day she and I revised our safety plan. No idea what was going to happen later that day. At 6:55pm I sent my oldest daughter a text. I needed to talk with her as soon as she was done with the grad school class zoom. I wanted her to know things were getting stressful between me and her father again. I had filed for divorce in late October 2019\*\* however my husband had manipulated his way back into the home "living in the basement."

7:07pm I called 911, 7:11pm the girls heard sirens, they rushed to a bedroom window and saw their father fleeing the police in his car. Oldest daughter tells sister to stay in her room and she comes rushing downstairs. I am outside talking with officers because our puppy is going crazy in her room (kennel) inside. She too is freaked out by the activity and tense energy now surrounding our home.

I am confirming details with the officer that my husband had threatened to kill me and himself verbally as we were talking out back on the porch. We went into the kitchen, he reached up and grabbed a hunting knife above the pantry (I FORGET IT WAS THERE)! He pointed the knife at me and himself. I had 911 on the phone as this happened and as I tried to get him to stay so everything could be discussed, but was advised to put my safety first.

Officer asked do you want to press charges? I answered, yes I do.

HB 2029

Increasing the time of an initial restraining order and possible extensions issued in a protection from abuse order or a protection from stalking, sexual assault or human trafficking order.

**YES! YES! YES!**

A gift and huge benefit to abuse victims. As such a victim, I can remember with hair raising memories the night of absolute need for this came into my life.

\*\* In September 2019 I had removed all guns from home because he verbally threatened to kill me and himself. In late October I was able to file for divorce and during this process, I realized I had been living in a domestic abuse relationship for years. A **temporary** POA (protective order of abuse) was issued and he was removed from the home. However, we had court in approximately **3 weeks** and I agreed to have it removed.

TEMPORARY POA, yes I said TEMPORARY. 3 WEEKS, are you kidding me??

I had not taken a breath yet, not able to think, trying to wrap my brain around what happened. I dropped the POA because he was doing everything “right”. I was not able to start processing the situation yet. I was living in complete shock.

If the time frame on the initial order would have been longer, perhaps my life would not have been threatened with a weapon in April of 2020. The **protection** of more time would have given me more time to concentrate on recovery, health, figuring out what I needed to do next and options I had available to me. I would have been able to come out of the shock I was still living. I would have been able to make better decisions

This protection also would remove so many burdens that fall onto the victims. Such as repeat court appearances. Why did I/we have to go to court the first time or again, as the victim I did not do anything wrong. I/We are **burdened** with **repeat trips to court, financially** to lawyers and the **emotional burden goes deep** every time. Court is traumatic and so is the thought of seeing your abuser!!!

The trauma and drama of abuse shakes ones' soul to a depth you can't know if you haven't lived it.

Please move this bill forward to increase the time of an initial restraining order and possible extensions issued in a protection from abuse order or a protection from stalking, sexual assault or human trafficking order.

Thank you.

Jennifer Reynolds