



dangerous love

what your options are if you feel unsafe

The first few dates being romanced by a potential significant other are truly blissful. The flirtatious text messages, stolen moments, kind words, and even opening a car door, all set us up to fall in love. We approach our new love with a happily ever after in our sights, never suspecting that our chosen mate may be prone to cruelty or worse. If we read the signs early on, they wouldn't have made it past the first date or insulting text message. In romance, we tend to see our suitor through rose-colored glasses, however, circumstances and our own vulnerabilities can further obscure our view of the obvious signs. No one expects that the once seem-

ingly perfect romance would one day all end in violence or possible death.

Clearly, Reeva Steenkamp, the model and law school graduate, did not expect to die as a result of gun shots fired at the hands of her boyfriend Olympic runner Oscar Pistorius who allegedly shot and killed his beloved on Valentine's Day. Although there is no reported history of violence, he is accused of premeditated murder. Or Kasandra Perkins, who returning late from a concert with friends, was confronted with an argument by her boyfriend Jovan Belcher, a linebacker with the Kansas City Chiefs. Their bitter

disagreement ended with his firing several bullets at her, killing her.

An unforgiving word does not always lead to physical violence, but it can. If you have experienced the threat of impending violence, protect yourself against the future harm or harassment. Do not wait to see if the threats are just empty threats. The court can issue an injunction against domestic or repeat violence to help protect you. The process is simple and could be life-saving.

First, you must go to the court to file a petition for the injunction. If the threats are serious and the actual threat of violence is imminent, the court can issue a temporary injunction, without the other party present; this is called an "ex parte" injunction. The other party must then be served with the petition, and a hearing will be scheduled to allow you to state your case and the other party the opportunity to be heard. The judge will make a decision to either grant or dismiss the injunction depending on the evidence (or in the case of an injunction already imposed, continue the injunction).

“ If you have experienced the threat of impending violence, protect yourself against the future harm or harassment. ”

For your protection, if an injunction is granted, the court will require the opposing party to maintain a certain distance from you, not contact you directly or indirectly through a third party, relinquish any firearms, and any other relief the court deems necessary. Furthermore, a violation of the injunction is a criminal offense.

If the injunction is the only means of protection you have against someone who is threatening to cause you physical harm, you cannot risk losing the injunction on a mere technicality, evidentiary objection or faulty presentation. It is essential to speak to an attorney to assist you with your preparation and representation.



Meet the Doctor

Amanda Salcido is an attorney practicing in family, juvenile, criminal law, and US Army Jag Corps. She takes a personal, hands-on approach in the representation of her clients. Call for to schedule your free consultation.

Salcido Law Office
480-299-9969
salcidolawoffice.com