



Family Law

CALL US - BEFORE
YOUR EX DOES!



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LAWYER

Q

I broke up with my partner and I'm seeing someone else. Now my ex is texting me saying things like "You could get hurt". I am scared!

A

First of all, always trust your gut – if you feel scared, you have a reason to be. Every year, people are hurt and/ or killed by former partners. Better to be safe than a statistic. What can you do if you feel threatened by another person? You can obtain either a peace bond or restraining order.

You obtain a peace bond by going to your local police station, and showing them the texts, notes or phone messages which are frightening you. Peace bonds can protect you, your partner, and your children, as well as your property. They are often for a year in length. They are enforceable by the police. They can be voluntary, or a judge can make such an order. If the person breaches the peace bond, he or she can be charged.

To obtain a restraining order, you need to apply to the Court. The FLIC Office at Court will help you fill out the forms. You will need to explain why you are

fearful of harm from the other person. A judge will issue the restraining order. Restraining orders are often reviewed at the next Court appearance. Breaches involving criminal acts can be charged (e.g., threats or harassment).

In both cases the person will be expected to stay away from where you live, work and play. There will be a complete no-contact provision, (which can be varied to permit contact concerning the children.)

One final thing – both a peace bond and a restraining order act like an invisible hundred-metre pole. Just as that person can't approach or contact you, you can't approach or contact them, or you also risk being charged with a breach. As these situations are volatile, it would be prudent to consult with a family lawyer.

Your friends as Shank Law.



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