



Hoti ts'eeda

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPOR SUPPORT UNIT



**COLLÈGE
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YWCA
NWT

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

Research Study Information & Informed Consent

Title of the Study:

Investigating Denied Emergency Protection Orders in the Northwest Territories: Contributing Factors and Pathways to Improved Outcomes for People Surviving Intimate Partner Violence

Who is doing this study?

This study is being done by a research team in partnership with the YWCA NWT.

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This research study was reviewed and approved by the Aurora College Research Ethics Committee and was granted a Scientific Research License in compliance with the NWT *Scientists Act*.

Funding for this research has been provided by Hotìì ts'eeda through the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) funded NWT Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit, and hosted by the Tłıchq Government.

What is the purpose of this study?

The goal of this research is to learn how the Emergency Protection Orders (EPOs) process works in the Northwest Territories. We are looking at who is asking for EPOs and what happens with the applications when intimate partner violence is happening. By looking at all parts of the EPO process, we expect that this research will help make supports better for people experiencing violence in their relationships.

Who can take part in this study?

To be involved in this study, you must at least 19 years of age and be the named applicant on an EPO application submitted in a one-year period between 2026 and 2027. Your information and experience are important in helping us understand the process and how it impacts people involved.

What will happen if I take part in this study?

If you decide to participate in this research:

- You will be asked questions about yourself, the person who is hurting you, and the violence you experienced that has led to your EPO application. This interview will take no more than 30 minutes.
- The YWCA staff person who has helped you with the EPO hearing will ask the questions.
- You can skip any questions you want and stop the interview at any time without giving a reason.
- If you applied for an EPO because you are experiencing intimate partner violence and with your permission, the research team will access the EPO hearing transcript from your application and the risk assessment score that was done by the YWCA.

Are there any risks or benefits if I take part in this study?

Possible risks: Answering questions about your EPO application may bring up difficult memories and feelings. You can skip any questions that feel uncomfortable or stop the interview at any time. To support your well-being:

- The interview will be done with care and respect by the supportive YWCA staff person who has helped you with the EPO application.
- The YWCA staff person is very knowledgeable about local supports that you can contact and will also continue to offer support in the moment if you feel upset or need someone to talk to.

Your privacy and safety are very important. Your participation in this study will remain confidential.

Possible benefits: Though you will not receive any direct personal benefit or compensation for participating in this study, your contribution and experience may help:

- Improve outcomes for people who need emergency protection when family violence is occurring; and
- Service providers, legal professionals, and policy makers better understand what survivors need during the EPO process and improve people's access to EPOs.

How will my information be kept private?

Your name and all other identifying details will not be included in the research.

- All of your information, including direct quotes, will be anonymized, which means that you will not be identified in any of the documents or notes. Names and personal identifying information will not be recorded.
- All hard copies of documents will be identified only by a code number and stored securely in a locked filing cabinet in the office of the Principle Investigator.

- Electronic copies will be identified only by a code number and will be kept on the local hard drives of team members' computers, all of which are password protected and stored in a locked cabinet.

What will the research team do with the results of this study?

The outcomes of this research and what it may produce include: articles in scientific journals, presentations and reports for government departments and community organizations, academic conference presentations, as well as plain language summaries made available to the public. We will only report group results and if quotes are used, they will be fully anonymous – people will not be identified by name in any reports of this study.

Will anyone know I am part of this study?

No. We take your privacy and safety seriously.

- There will be no physical documents or materials given to you that might show you are a part of this study unless you ask to have some provided.
- All study information, including this consent form, will be available on the YWCA of Yellowknife website so that you can look at it any time but also feel safe that your privacy is protected.
- The Justice of the Peace, NWT Territorial Courts, or YWCA staff (other than the staff person who is helping with your EPO application) will not know whether or not you choose to participate in this study.

Do I have to take part in this study?

No. The decision to take part in this study is completely up to you.

- Saying no will not affect the services you receive from the YWCA or your EPO in any way.
- You can stop any time without giving a reason.

Do I have a right to withdraw from the study?

Yes. You can change your mind and withdraw from the study until all information for this study has been collected which will take one year. This means that you can withdraw from the study at any time before June 1, 2027. If you withdraw before this time:

- All of your information (data, notes, EPO hearing transcripts) will be deleted and not used in the research.

Once all of the information has been collected for this study, your information will be anonymized and added to the study data. At that point, it will not be possible to remove your information because we will no longer be able to link it to you.

To withdraw from the study, you can contact the research team using the contact information below. You can also ask a YWCA staff member to help you get in touch with us.

Questions about the study or want to withdraw? Here's who to call.

If you have any questions or concerns about the study or your rights as a participant in the study, you can contact the research team.

Heather Fikowski
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Email: hfikowski@auroracollege.ca
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Want to talk with the Research Ethics Committee about your rights as a participant in this study? Here's who to call.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the research team (contact information above) or the Aurora College Research Ethics Committee:

Dr. Sunila R. Kalkar
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