

A criminal charge of violation of an abuse prevention order (209A order) asserts that there is a 209A order in effect (requiring that the defendant: not abuse or contact the person, stay a particular distance away from the person, vacate and remain away from the household and workplace), that the defendant knew the pertinent terms of the order, and that the defendant violated the order. A conviction potentially is punishable by a jail sentence of up to 2.5 years.