



## **An Investigation of Effects of Receiving Protection Orders on Abused Women around Thohoyandou Area**

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**ABSTRACT** Domestic violence is prevalent in South Africa. In 1998, the Government introduced a clause in the Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998, which provides for protection orders to alleviate the problem of domestic violence. Since the new dispensation, victims can now apply for protection orders against their abusers. This study evaluated the effectiveness of protection orders in deterring future abuse on women who have applied and received protection orders. The research is an evaluative study which used qualitative measures with women aged between twenty and forty-five years who obtained protection orders from Thohoyandou magistrates. Their experiences were then analyzed using qualitative instruments. The study revealed that domestic violence continues unabated in people's lives. The effects include that protection orders are catalysts for future violence, killings, harassment, communication breakdown, withdrawal of economic support and neglect, all leading to separation and divorce within the families.