You have the right to a safe and healthy relationship... free from violence and free from fear
2010 State Law Report Cards:  
A National Survey on Teen Dating Violence Laws

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the National Network to End Domestic Violence  
and the state domestic violence coalitions

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Report Highlights

• Break the Cycle worked with public health researchers from the University of Minnesota to revise the grading criteria to focus more closely on those aspects of the civil protection order laws that are uniquely relevant to youth victims of domestic and dating violence, including the types of abuse teens are likely to experience and the most relevant remedies for youth.

• This year’s report includes information about services available to teen victims of domestic violence including access to HIV/STI testing and treatment, contraception, abortion, prenatal care and adoption.

• Each state report card now includes information about whether state law requires a school response to dating violence through policy or prevention education.

• Because the report is widely used by both policymakers and teens, this year Break the Cycle created a report for policymakers that provides detailed information about each state’s laws and supplemental state pages that provide teens with information about seeking a protection order and the availability of other necessary services.

State Law Updates

• Arizona changed its law to allow individuals in dating relationships to seek orders of protection, better protecting teen victims of domestic violence. The new law went into effect on September 30, 2009.

• District of Columbia fully implemented its law which clarified how minor victims of domestic violence access protection orders. The new law went into effect on March 25, 2009.

• Nebraska and Ohio passed laws mandating dating violence education and school policies, joining Rhode Island, Virginia and Texas as states that require prevention education in middle schools and high schools.
About Break the Cycle

Founded in 1996, Break the Cycle is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to engage, educate and empower youth to build lives free from domestic and dating violence. Break the Cycle provides preventive education, free legal services, advocacy and support to young people between the ages of 12 and 24 and trains social service agencies, law enforcement, school personnel and others to more effectively respond to victims of teen dating violence. As the leading voice for teens on the issue of dating violence, Break the Cycle advocates for policy and legislative changes at the state and federal levels to better protect the rights and promote the health of teens across the country.

About Teen Dating Violence

Domestic violence is not just an issue for adults. Teens and young adults experience the same types of abuse in their relationships and, in fact, dating abuse is common in teen relationships. One in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth. Digital abuse is widespread among teens and abusive behaviors via technology are often more difficult to discern. One in four teens in a relationship say that they have been called names, harassed or put down by their partner through cell phones and texting. In one study, 28% of youth ages 11 to 14 had been checked up on via cell phone more than 10 times per day and 24% reported that they were checked on via text more than 20 times per day. The impact of dating violence extends beyond the immediate experience of the teen, impacting the entire community. Teen victims of violence are substantially more likely than classmates to bring guns or other weapons to school, and are three times as likely to be involved in a physical fight. Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization.

About the State Law Report Cards

Break the Cycle strongly believes that teen and young adult victims of domestic and dating violence should be able to access the same protections and assistance as adult victims of violence, including access to the legal system and sensitive services needed for safety. We believe state law should explicitly define the rights and responsibilities of minors. All teens age 12 and older should have the right to petition for protection on their own behalf, without parental involvement, and domestic violence protection orders should be available against minor abusers.

Sadly, teens face overwhelming obstacles to getting help, including access to basic securities such as money, shelter and transportation. Exacerbating these barriers for teens are the widespread statutory restrictions that exist because relatively few states recognize teens as victims of domestic abuse.

To call attention to this critical situation, Break the Cycle set out to assess the climate of each state’s civil domestic violence protection order laws and their impact on teens seeking protection from abusive relationships. Initially, the research aimed to compile an up-to-date single location of state-by-state information.

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Upon compiling the research, it became clear that state laws vary widely with regard to the protections and services available to teen victims of domestic and dating violence. Even in those states where teen victims benefit from access to civil protection orders, many other services are necessary to provide a comprehensive response to dating violence. Therefore, Break the Cycle expanded the areas included in the State Report Cards to better inform states of the need for a holistic approach to ensure teen victims are able to get the help they need.

The State Report Cards include information about access to contraception, HIV/STI services, adoption, abortion and medical care for a minor’s child because youth experiencing dating violence often find that they are also in need of these services. Shockingly, studies have found that no less than a quarter of adolescent mothers experience relationship violence before, during or just after pregnancy, with some studies reporting rates of 50 to 80 percent. A recent study revealed that 35% of teen and young women who had experienced intimate partner violence were also victims of pregnancy coercion or birth control sabotage. Without providing reproductive and maternal health services to minors, a comprehensive community response to address dating abuse is unattainable.

In states with laws requiring schools to address dating violence, youth have the opportunity to understand dating violence before they become victims or abusers. Because teens spend a significant portion of their lives at school, schools are uniquely positioned to respond to dating violence. One in four teens say they would confide in a teacher, coach or school counselor if they were in an abusive relationship. Although relatively few states have passed legislation addressing the issue, Break the Cycle urges policymakers to require schools to (1) proactively address the problem by establishing effective policies and procedures to address dating violence and (2) implement teen dating violence prevention programs in schools.

The State Law Report Cards have already been used as a valuable advocacy tool. In response to the invaluable feedback provided by advocates who are working to improve their state’s response to teen dating violence, this year Break the Cycle has created supplemental pages to the policymakers’ report. Each state’s policymaker page provides information about current state laws in addition to recommendations for how to improve the state’s response to youth victims of dating violence. The teen page serves as a resource for those who want more information about how to seek a protection order, as well as the services available to minors. Break the Cycle hopes that the new format will assist minors, educate policymakers and inform citizens about the need to improve state laws around teen dating violence.

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About the New Grading System

Key Areas and Indicator Selection

For 2010, the project staff focused on three key areas that influence the well-being of teens: 1) Access to Civil Protection Orders (CPOs); 2) Access to Sensitive Services; and 3) School Response to Dating Violence. This year, Access to CPOs was the only key area graded, with information about current policies regarding the other two key areas provided on each state’s summary. In the future, states will be graded on all three key areas.

For Teens’ Access to CPOs, 11 indicators were identified for grading. These indicators were formulated from the expertise of legal professionals who have worked directly with teen clients in the field as well as from the extant literature on the most common legal barriers facing youth who experience dating violence. Please refer to the Indicator Summary Table for a definition of each indicator.

Data Sources

The data on each of the indicators were compiled from 2009 state law statutes by an independent law firm, Latham and Watkins, LLP, and by Break the Cycle staff. Project staff then performed all coding of the compiled data. Additionally, each state’s domestic violence coalition was asked to review the Policymaker page for accuracy prior to the release of this report.

Data for sensitive service access was provided by the Guttmacher Institute, with the information extracted from two of their December 2009 State Policies in Brief reports entitled: “An Overview of Minors’ Consent Law” and “Minors’ Access to STI Services.”

Grade Determination

For Teen’s Access to Civil Protection Orders, states were graded on each of the 11 indicators against ideal policy criteria recommended by Break the Cycle, experts in dating violence prevention. States that met the criterion received ten points for that indicator and those with the most adverse policy received zero points. Intermediate policies were assigned predetermined point values where appropriate.

The final raw score was a weighted average of the scores for the 11 indicators, with the weights assigned according to the relative importance of the indicator as determined by legal experts on the project staff. Indicator weights are provided in the Indicator Summary Table.

Once all raw scores were calculated, the distribution of the scores was examined and appropriate cut-off values were determined based on standards of consistency, simplicity and merit. States who earned eight points or more received an A. Scores of at least seven points but less than eight points received a B. Those with a minimum of six points but fewer than seven points received a C, and those with at least five points but less than six points received a D. A failing grade was assigned to any state with a raw score lower than five. Additionally, states that prohibit minors from getting civil protection orders or states where dating relationships do not qualify for civil protection orders were coded as having automatically failed.
Indicator Definition

Minors can be granted CPOs (20%)
Points were awarded based on whether or not minors may be granted CPOs. An automatic failure was assigned to states that explicitly prohibit minors from getting CPOs.

Dating relationships (20%)
Points were awarded based on the types of relationships that qualify for CPOs. An automatic failure was assigned to states that do not recognize dating relationships.

Minor can file on own behalf (10%)
Points were awarded based on the circumstances, if any, under which minors can file for themselves. Special consideration was given to minimum age requirements.

Parental notification (10%)
Points were awarded based on whether or not a minor’s parents may be notified about the proceedings.

Same sex couples (7.5%)
Points were awarded based on whether or not same-sex couples qualify for CPOs.

CPO against minor respondent (7.5%)
Points were awarded based on whether or not a CPO can be granted against a minor respondent.

If a minor cannot file, who can? (5%)
Points were awarded based on the availability of options to minors regarding adults who may file for them in situations where they cannot file for themselves.

Qualifying definitions of abuse (5%)
Points were awarded based on the types of abuse that qualify for CPOs. Special attention was paid to whether or not property damage and use of technology were included.

Where the case is heard (5%)
Points were awarded according to whether or not the minors’ cases were heard in courts familiar with domestic violence law.

Modifiable (5%)
Points were awarded based on the modifiability of the CPO.
Findings

This Report Card and the information it contains is not legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship. While great care was taken to provide current and accurate information, Break the Cycle is not responsible for inaccuracies in the text.

**Dating Relationships**

Individuals in dating relationships can access protection orders in forty-one states and the District of Columbia. Included in that is Pennsylvania, where courts have interpreted “intimate relationship” to include dating partners. In Oregon, an individual who is in a sexual relationship with their abuser can apply for a protective order. The states that do not allow victims to apply for protection orders against a dating partner include: Alabama, Georgia, Ohio,9 Kentucky, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Virginia.

**Minors’ Access to Protection Orders**

**Access**

Minors have access to protection orders (eligibility as a minor and/or in a dating relationship) in forty-five states and the District of Columbia. Missouri is the only state that explicitly prohibits minors from accessing protection orders, although a person is considered an adult at age 17. Four states, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio10 and Wyoming do not specify whether minors are able to access protection orders.

**Minors’ Ability to Petition**

Although minors may have access to protection orders, state laws vary as to whether minors can petition for orders on their own behalf. Only nine states and the District of Columbia explicitly allow minors to petition on their own behalf: California, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah and Washington. While most states do not specify whether minors can petition for protection orders on their own behalf, nine states prohibit all minors from petitioning: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Jersey, Texas and Wisconsin.

**Protection Orders against Minor Abusers**

Fifteen states allow petitions for protection orders to be filed against minor abusers. While a majority of states do not specify whether protection orders are available against minor abusers, five states prohibit protection orders against minors: Maryland11, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey and Oregon.

**Restrictions for Same-Sex Relationships**

Montana, North Carolina and South Carolina specifically offer protection only to individuals in opposite-sex relationships. Louisiana law specifies that to qualify for a domestic violence protection order as a cohabitant, the victim must be living with an abuser of the opposite sex. In Idaho, the text of the civil domestic violence law does not exclude same-sex couples; however, when the law was adopted, the Idaho Legislature stated that the law was intended to exclude same-sex couples.

**Access to Sensitive Services**

**Contraceptive Services**

Seventeen states allow all minors to access contraceptive services, including birth control pills, condoms and other contraceptive devices. A majority of states allow at least some minors to access contraceptive services, while four states do not specify whether minors can access these services: North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.

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9 On March 17, 2010, Governor Ted Strickland signed into law House Bill 10, which will allow minors and individuals in dating relationships to access protection orders. Break the Cycle will update this report when further information becomes available.

10 Id.

11 However, a person can petition for a Juvenile Peace Order against a minor abuser in Maryland, which provides similar relief.
HIV/STI Services
All fifty states and the District of Columbia allow minors to consent to services for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In thirty-one states, minors may also consent to services for HIV testing and treatment. However, in eighteen states a physician may inform a minor’s parent(s), although they are not required to do so.

Prenatal Care
Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia allow all minors to consent to prenatal care, although thirteen of these states allow a physician the discretion to inform a minor’s parent(s). Thirteen states do not specify whether minors can consent to prenatal care.

Adoption
Minors are able to consent to adoption of the minor’s child in twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia. Five additional states require parental involvement, and five other states require the minor to seek legal counsel. Twelve states do not specify whether minors can consent to adoption.

Medical Care for a Minor’s Child
In thirty states and the District of Columbia, minors can consent to medical care for their child. State law in all remaining jurisdictions does not specify whether minors can consent to medical care for their children.

Abortion
Minors can consent to abortion in only three states (Connecticut, Maine and Maryland) and the District of Columbia. In most states, parental involvement is required, although courts have placed an injunction on parental involvement in five states: Alaska, California, Montana, Nevada and New Mexico. Seven states do not specify whether minors are able to consent to abortion services.

This information was compiled using research previously completed by the Guttmacher Institute. Further information can be found on their website at www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/.

School Response
Nebraska, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia have laws requiring dating violence education to be taught in middle schools and high schools. Ohio recently passed a law mandating dating violence education, but the law does not go into effect until March 29, 2010.

Both Georgia and Washington have laws that require the Board of Education to develop a program that addresses dating violence, although it is unclear whether these programs have been developed.

Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Tennessee permit schools to provide dating violence education.

The California Legislature has expressed its intent that funds going toward violence education can be used to address dating violence prevention education.

Nebraska, Ohio, Rhode Island and Texas have laws that require local school districts to establish or adopt school policies and procedures that address incidents of dating violence.

12 School dating violence policies in Nebraska must be implemented by July 1, 2010.
13 School dating violence policies in Ohio must be implemented by September 29, 2010.
## Overview of Grades

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Policy Recommendations

Break the Cycle’s recommendations for improvement seek the removal of any and all barriers that might prevent a young person from accessing either the legal system or services to ensure their safety. Additionally, the recommendations include suggestions for prevention education and dating violence policies to address incidents of dating violence. Even in states that received an A grade, there are a number of ways to make laws more accessible to, and protective of, teens.

Increase Access to Courts

Break the Cycle advocates for increased access to the legal system for teens who experience dating violence. In doing so, we support two broad improvements to state law. First, individuals in dating relationships must be able to apply for and receive civil protection orders. While excluding people in dating relationships from eligibility for protection orders affects individuals of all ages, teens are disproportionately affected because they often do not live with their partners and they may not have children together. As a result, these victims are left with no legal protection from their abusers. States should also permit victims of same-sex intimate partner violence to access all civil domestic and dating violence remedies.

Second, minors must be able to apply for and receive temporary and permanent civil protection orders. In some states, the law does not specify at what age a person becomes eligible for a protection order. Because of the law’s ambiguity, minors are often at the behest of the court as to whether they will be able to obtain a protection order. Since courts use their discretion to grant or deny civil protection orders to minors, the law is inconsistently applied, leaving teens with unpredictable access to the courts, if any.

Victims of intimate partner sexual abuse, stalking and harassment must be eligible to apply for protection orders. Similarly, policymakers should pass legislation that expands the types of relief available in a protection order.

Further, most states are silent on whether a person can obtain a protection order against an abusive partner who is a minor. State laws must allow individuals to petition for protection orders against minor abusers. It is only by holding all perpetrators of violence accountable that we will be able to end the cycle of violence and prevent re-victimization.

Break the Cycle works to remove barriers for teens who seek to obtain services relating to their experiences with dating violence. While parental involvement is the ideal, such involvement is not always possible and could even present additional safety concerns for the abused youth. Parental consent and parental notification requirements in state domestic violence laws are significant obstacles for many young people. For various reasons, youth may not want their parents to know that they are having problems in their relationship, or even that they are in a relationship at all. A few states allow minors to seek protection orders and only advise parents after an order has been granted; however, any parental notification requirement could deter minors from seeking protection orders. Break the Cycle believes it is vital that youth be able to access protection orders without the permission or knowledge of their parent or guardian.

Ensure Access to and Confidentiality in Services

The need for parental consent can also hinder access to necessary care, including contraceptive services, HIV/STI services, prenatal care, abortion, adoption and medical care for a minor’s child. Break the Cycle strongly urges states to pass legislation allowing minors to consent without parental involvement to any sensitive services needed to overcome the effects of abuse.
Promote Dating Violence Prevention Education

Break the Cycle believes educating youth about teen dating violence is critically important. By providing dating violence prevention education in schools, communities can ensure that their youth know how to engage in safe and healthy relationships. **Break the Cycle advocates for states to enact laws requiring schools to teach dating violence prevention education.**

Implement School Policies to Address Dating Violence

Schools have the opportunity to play a significant role in both responding to and preventing dating violence. Schools must proactively address this issue by establishing effective policies and procedures to address dating violence and must be prepared to sensitively intervene to support teens who are already experiencing dating violence. To ensure that schools implement strong policies, **Break the Cycle urges states to enact laws requiring school districts to adopt dating violence policies and protocols to address incidents and provide resources to students who are experiencing dating violence.**

Looking to the Future

Since the first release of Break the Cycle’s State Law Report Cards in 2008, we have seen what one report can do to raise awareness about the issue of teen dating violence, inform the public about the unique needs of teens, provide information to youth, and engage policymakers to change laws to better serve and protect teens. To address the issue of teen dating abuse we know there must be a holistic, community-wide approach. This year, we expanded the types of information addressed in the Report Card to achieve our goal.

The 2010 Report Cards include information about school response and access to services as a resource for policymakers, service providers, parents, teens and individuals who work with youth. In future years we plan to incorporate these additional areas into the grading system. We intend to continue growing the report to provide a wide range of information to teens and educate policymakers about the vital need for a comprehensive response to teen dating violence.

As more people begin to take on the issue of teen dating violence, Break the Cycle is available to assist those who seek to improve their community’s response to this problem. We hope the State Law Report Cards will elicit feedback from local service providers, policymakers, parents and youth about how Break the Cycle can assist advocates. We encourage input and look forward to integrating more information as issues are brought to our attention.

It is our aim that grading states on how their laws affect teen victims of dating violence will spur action among state legislatures throughout the country and activism among our nation’s youth. It is essential that the needs of minor victims be specifically addressed. Lawmakers have a responsibility to address this issue by passing legislation that will ensure the protection of all victims of domestic violence – regardless of their age.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:
- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:
- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:
- You are or were married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:
- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, an adult family/household member or an adult acting as your guardian must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Alabama law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are or were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, your parent, guardian or a court-appointed guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Alaska law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are or were dating, living with, or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property OR
- If you are under 12 years old, sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, your parent or another adult acting as your guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Arizona law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Adoption

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Arizona law does not include any information about dating violence in schools.

How can Arizona improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to minors over 12 years old who have been sexually abused.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are or were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, an adult family/household member or an employee/volunteer of a domestic violence program must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. The law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Arkansas law does not include any information about dating violence in schools.

How can Arkansas improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.

Break the Cycle
Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer's intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are or were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 12 years old, your guardian or a court-appointed guardian must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. If you are 12 or older, you can go and file on your own. If you are under 18 and are residing with a parent/guardian, California law requires the court to notify at least one parent/guardian (chosen by you) if you receive a protection order unless doing so would not be in your best interests.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

If you are a minor, state law says that you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion, but judges have said that this law cannot be enforced.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

The California Legislature has said that money for violence prevention can also be used to pay for dating violence prevention education.

How can California improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement or notification.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are or were dating, living with or married to OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Stalked you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Colorado law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*A doctor may tell your parents if you are under 16 and you get treatment for HIV/AIDS.

If you are a minor, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Colorado law does not include any information about dating violence in schools.

How can Colorado improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Add to what the court can order a current or ex-partner to do.
- Require schools to have rules about dating violence situations and to provide training for school teachers and staff in all middle schools and high schools.
- List in the law what the court can
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are or were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage if you are both 18 years old or older

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Connecticut law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know?

All teens can consent to:
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI)*
- Abortion services
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are under 12, your parent will be told if you test positive for an STI.

Some minors can consent to birth control services.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Connecticut law does not include any information about dating violence in schools.

How can Connecticut improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been sexually abused, stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are or were dating or married to OR
- You are currently living with OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, your parent or a representative from the Department of Child Services may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Delaware law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

**What other laws do you need to know about?**

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services*
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Adoption
- Abortion services
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

If you are under 17, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion.

**What are schools doing about dating violence?**

Delaware law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

**How can Delaware improve its response to teen dating violence?**

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been harassed by a dating partner.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 12 years old, your parent or another adult acting as your guardian must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. If you are 12 or older, you can go and file on your own. If you are under 18 and are residing with a parent or another adult acting as your guardian, DC law requires the court to notify your parent or the person acting as your guardian if you receive a protection order, unless the court determines that doing so would not be in your best interest.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, you may file for a protection order on your own behalf. The form requests (but does not require) a parental signature. However, Florida law does not say specifically at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf. A parent or guardian may also file on your behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, Florida law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Medical care for their child(ren)

Some minors can access birth control services.

If you are a minor, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Florida law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Florida improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Add to what the court can order a current or ex-partner to do.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a person who is 18 or older must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. The law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a family/household member or a state agency may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Hawaii law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services*
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Adoption

*You must be 14 or older. If you are a minor, your doctor may tell your parent.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Hawaii law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Hawaii improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been sexually abused, stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent or guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Idaho law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, any person may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Illinois law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

Some minors can consent to birth control services.

If you are a minor, your parents will be notified if you have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Illinois law allows schools to include dating violence in the curriculum for 8th through 12th grades.

How can Illinois improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org

Break the Cycle
Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent or other adult acting as your guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Indiana law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Adoption

Some minors can consent to birth control services.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Indiana law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Indiana improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Require all protection order cases for minors to be in the same court as for adult domestic violence victims.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent or guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Iowa law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent or guardian if you receive a protection order. If you are filing a petition for a protection order against someone who is under 18 years old, you must do so in juvenile court.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*

*If you are a minor and you test positive for HIV, your parent will be notified.

If you are a minor, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Iowa law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Iowa improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been sexually abused, stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Require all protection order cases for minors to be in the same court as for adult domestic violence victims.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent or adult residing with you may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Kansas law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

Some minors can consent to birth control services and medical care during pregnancy.

If you are a minor, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion and you must talk to a lawyer if you want to put your child up for adoption.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Kansas law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Kansas improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner, and minors over 16 years old who have been sexually abused.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

**You can get a protection order against someone who:**

- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

**The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:**

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a family member may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Kentucky law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent, adult household member or court-appointed guardian must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Louisiana law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent or another adult acting as your guardian must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Maine law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections*
- Abortion services

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

Some minors may access birth control services.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Maine law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Maine improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.
- Require schools to have policies about dating violence situations and to provide training for school teachers and staff in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a family member, adult acting as your guardian or court-appointed attorney may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Maryland law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order. If you are filing against a dating partner who is under 18, you must file in juvenile court.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:
- Birth control services*
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Adoption
- Abortion services
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Maryland law requires the State Board of Education to encourage local schools to include dating violence in the curriculum.

How can Maryland improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:
- Threatening or abusing you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:
- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:
- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:
- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Massachusetts law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:
- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor and your health or life is at risk, your parent will be notified.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent's consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Massachusetts law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Massachusetts improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone, age 10 and older, who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, someone 18 years old or older must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Michigan law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order. If you are filing a petition for a protection order against someone who is under 18 years old, you must do so in juvenile court.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

Some minors may consent to birth control services. If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion or put a child up for adoption.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Michigan law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Michigan improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Add to what the court can order a current or ex-partner to do.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to, or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 16 years old, a family/household member or guardian must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. If you are 16 or older, you can go and file on your own. The law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services*
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion or put your child up for adoption.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Minnesota law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Minnesota improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer's intervention program
- Pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent, adult household member or other adult acting as your guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Mississippi law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

* HIV testing only. If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent for HIV treatment.

Some minors may consent to birth control services. If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Mississippi law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Mississippi improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been sexually abused or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone 17 years old or older who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Missouri law says that a court can only give a protection order to someone 17 years old or older.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

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What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

Some minors may consent to birth control services. If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

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What are schools doing about dating violence?

Missouri law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

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How can Missouri improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

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If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone of the opposite sex, regardless of their age, who:

- You are/were dating or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, your parent or other adult acting as your guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Montana law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services*
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

If you are a minor, state law says that you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion, but judges have said that this law cannot be enforced.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Montana law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Montana improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Nebraska law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

Some minors can consent to birth control services.

If you are a minor, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Nebraska law requires your schools to provide dating violence education and the school must adopt a policy to address dating violence at school.

How can Nebraska improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone 18 years old or older who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, your parent/guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Nevada law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

Some minors can consent to birth control services and medical care during pregnancy.

If you are a minor, state law says that you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion, but judges have said that this law cannot be enforced.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Nevada law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Nevada improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

New Hampshire law allows you to file for a protection order on your own behalf, regardless of your age. The law does not say who else may file for you or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with (including if you are currently pregnant)

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

New Jersey law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

Some minors can access birth control services.

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

New Jersey law allows a board of education to teach students about domestic and dating violence.

How can New Jersey improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org

Break the Cycle
Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

New Mexico law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

New York law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone of the opposite sex who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a person who has custody of you or resides with you may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. North Carolina law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

North Dakota law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to adoption.

You can consent to services for HIV and sexually transmitted infections if you are 14 or older.

If you are a minor, you can consent to medical care during the first three months of pregnancy or if it is your first visit, although your parents may be notified. For all visits after that, you must have your parent’s consent.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

North Dakota law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can North Dakota improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:
- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:
- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:
- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:
- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Ohio law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Adoption

*HIV testing only. You must have your parent’s consent to get HIV treatment.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Ohio has a new law that requires schools to teach students in grades 7 – 12 about dating violence starting on March 29, 2010.

How can Ohio improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow people in dating relationships to file for protection orders.
- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. In Oklahoma the law allows a court to issue you a protection order that requires your current or ex-partner to participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program. A court may also include any other remedies that it finds are necessary for your protection.

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone 13 years old or older who:

- You are/were dating, living with, or married to OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to, or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 16 years old, an adult household member must go to court with you to file a petition for a protection order on your behalf. If you are older, you can go and file on your own. If you file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order. If you are filing a petition for a protection order against someone who is under 18 years old, you must do so in juvenile court.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption if you are 14 or older
- Medical care for their child(ren)

If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

Some minors may consent to birth control services. If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion and they will be notified.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Oklahoma law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Oklahoma improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Require all protection order cases for minors to be in the same court as for adult domestic violence victims.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone 18 years old or older who:

- You are/were sexually involved with, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law may allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating, but it is not clear.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threated to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, you may file for a protection order on your own behalf. However, Oregon law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Pay your attorney’s fees or pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were sexually involved with, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law may allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a parent, adult household member or court-appointed guardian may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Pennsylvania law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services*
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*You must be 14 or older.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion. If you put your child up for adoption, your parents will be notified.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Pennsylvania law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Pennsylvania improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow people in dating relationships to file for protection orders.
- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or cyberstalked you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old you may be able to file for a protection order on your own behalf. Rhode Island law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone of the opposite sex who:

- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a household member may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. South Carolina law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services*
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

*You must be 16 or older or be a mature minor.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

South Carolina law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can South Carolina improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow people in dating relationships, including those in same-sex relationships, to file for protection orders.
- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you or your family
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

South Dakota law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections

Some minors can consent to birth control services.

If you are a minor, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

South Dakota law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can South Dakota improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow people in dating relationships to file for protection orders.
- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old and have the signature of a parent/guardian, you may file for a protection order on your own behalf. However, Tennessee law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf or who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf. If you are under 18, Tennessee law requires the court to notify your parent/guardian of the protection order unless doing so would not be in your best interests.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Tennessee law allows the department of education to develop a curriculum that discusses teen dating violence and provides information about where to get help if you are a victim of dating violence.

How can Tennessee improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement or notification.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been sexually abused, stalked or harassed by a dating partner.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org

Break the Cycle
Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:
- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:
- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:
- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:
- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, an adult must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Texas law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?
All teens can consent to:
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*

*If you are a minor, a doctor may tell your parents.

Some minors can get birth control services.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion and they will be notified.

What are schools doing about dating violence?
Texas law requires schools to have a policy for dating violence at school, teach students about dating violence, and train parents and teachers about dating violence.

How can Texas improve its response to teen dating violence?
- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone 16 years old or older who:

- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked (including cyberstalking) or harassed you OR
- Destroyed your property

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 16 years old, you must have an interested person go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. If you are 16 or older you may file on your behalf. The law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, sexually involved with or living with

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, a family/household member may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Vermont law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Adoption

*HIV testing only. You must have your parent’s consent to get HIV treatment.

Some minors may consent to birth control services.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Vermont law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Vermont improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Explicitly allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney's fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law does not allow you to get a protection order against someone you are or were dating.

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened, attempted to or actually physically abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Virginia law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf or who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf. If you are under 18, your parent or guardian must be notified that you are seeking a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Medical care during pregnancy
- Adoption
- Medical care for their child(ren)

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Virginia law requires the Board of Education to create guidelines for school curriculum that includes information about dating violence.

How can Virginia improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow people in dating relationships to file for protection orders.
- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement or notification.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been sexually abused, stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay your attorney’s fees
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood or marriage

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 16 years old, a family/household member must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. If you are 16 or older, you may go and file on your own behalf. The law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care during pregnancy*

* You must be 14 or older.

If you are a minor, you must talk to a lawyer if you want to put your child up for adoption.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Washington law requires that a curriculum be developed that talks about domestic and dating violence.

How can Washington improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your school, home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Give you use of shared personal property
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay for other harm you suffered

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, an adult family/household member may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. West Virginia law does not say at what age you can file for a protection order on your own behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:
- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Adoption

Some minors can access birth control services and medical care during pregnancy.

If you are a minor, your parent will be notified if you have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

West Virginia law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can West Virginia improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

If you are under 18 years old, you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, but the law does not say at what age you can do so. If you are under 18, a parent, step-parent or guardian may also file on your behalf. If you are able to file on your own behalf, the law does not say whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections

If you are a minor, you must have your parent's consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Wisconsin law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Wisconsin improve its response to teen dating violence?

- State the age at which a minor may file for a protection order without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Add to what the court can order a current or ex-partner to do.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.
- Require schools to include dating violence education in health classes in all middle schools and high schools.
A protection order is a FREE court order that can protect you from an abusive dating partner. This order can prevent your current or ex-partner from:

- Threatening or abusing you
- Contacting or coming near you or your family
- Coming to your home or work
- Possessing a gun

The order may also require your current or ex-partner to:

- Move out of your home
- Agree to a custody and visitation schedule, if you have children
- Pay you child support or spousal support
- Participate in counseling or a batterer’s intervention program
- Pay for other harm you suffered
- Do anything else the court finds is necessary for your protection

A protection order can be changed if things in your life change (for example, if you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone who:

- You are/were dating, living with or married to OR
- You have a child with OR
- You are related to by blood

The law requires you to show that your current or ex-partner:

- Threatened to, attempted to or actually physically abused you OR
- Sexually abused you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

Wyoming law does not say at what age you may file for a protection order on your own behalf, who may file for you if you are unable to file on your own behalf, or whether the court has to notify your parent/guardian if you receive a protection order.

This is the law in your state only. The law is different in every state.

What other laws do you need to know about?

All teens can consent to:

- Birth control services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Adoption

If you are a minor, you must have your parent’s consent to have an abortion and they will be notified.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Wyoming law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Wyoming improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services without parental involvement.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in their relationship go to www.thesafespace.org