

2010

State Law Report Card

Arkansas



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.



Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

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