

2010

State Law Report Card



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



Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

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