

2010

State Law Report Card



Florida

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.



Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

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