

2010

State Law Report Card



Georgia

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.

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
- Medical care for their child(ren)

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

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

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Georgia law requires the Board of Education to develop a program for preventing teen dating violence for grades 8 – 12, but it isn't clear if it has been developed yet.

How can Georgia 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.



Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

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