

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 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.

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