

2010

State Law Report Card



Louisiana

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 or your family
- 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
- 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 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:

- 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, a parent, adult household member or court-appointed guardian must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Louisiana 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 sexually transmitted infections*
- Medical care for their child(ren)

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

Some minors can access birth control services.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent's consent to have an abortion or put your child up for adoption.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Louisiana law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can Louisiana 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, harassed, threatened with physical abuse 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