

# 2010

## State Law Report Card



## Missouri

**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:**

- 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

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 17 years old or older 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
- Harassed you

Other types of abuse may also qualify you for a protection order.

**Missouri law says that a court can only give a protection order to someone 17 years old or older.**

**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 during pregnancy\*
- Medical care for their child(ren)

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

Some minors may consent to birth control services. If you are a minor, you must have your parent's consent to have an abortion.

### What are schools doing about dating violence?

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

### How can Missouri improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked by a dating partner.
- Allow all minors to access health services 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](http://www.thesafespace.org)