

2010

State Law Report Card



South Carolina

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
- Give you use of shared personal property
- 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, you transfer to a new school or get a new job).

You can get a protection order against someone of the opposite sex who:

- You are/were living with or married to OR
- You have a child with

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

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

If you are under 18 years old, a household member may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. South Carolina 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/guardian if you receive a protection order.

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

*You must be 16 or older or be a mature minor.

If you are a minor, you must have your parent's consent to have an abortion.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

South Carolina law does not include information about dating violence in schools.

How can South Carolina improve its response to teen dating violence?

• Allow people in dating relationships, including those in same-sex relationships, to file for protection orders.

• Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.

• Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been stalked or harassed 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