

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 or your family
- 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
- Participate in counseling or a batterer's intervention program
- 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 OR
- Sexually abused you OR
- Stalked or harassed you

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

If you are under 16 years old, a family/household member must go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. If you are 16 or older, you may go and 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.

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*
- Medical care during pregnancy*

* You must be 14 or older.

If you are a minor, you must talk to a lawyer if you want to put your child up for adoption.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

Washington law requires that a curriculum be developed that talks about domestic and dating violence.

How can Washington 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.



Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

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