

2010

State Law Report Card



Vermont

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 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

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, sexually involved with or living with

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

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

If you are under 18 years old, a family/household member may go to court with you to file for a protection order on your behalf. Vermont 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.

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 HIV and sexually transmitted infections*
- Adoption

*HIV testing only. You must have your parent's consent to get HIV treatment.

Some minors may consent to birth control services.

What are schools doing about dating violence?

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

How can Vermont improve its response to teen dating violence?

- Allow all minors to file for protection orders without parental involvement.
- Explicitly allow courts to issue protection orders against minor abusers.
- Allow courts to issue protection orders to persons who have been harassed 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