



PENNSYLVANIA

Break the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End
Domestic Violence

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Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protection order. Because it makes protection orders reasonably accessible to teens, Pennsylvania's grade for protecting teen victims of domestic and dating violence is a B.

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Pennsylvania?

Type of Relationship¹

In order to qualify for a protection order, the abuser must be someone:

- You are or used to be involved in an intimate, sexual or dating² relationship with
- You live with or used to live with
- You have a child with
- You are married to or used to be married to
- Who is your parent or your child
- You are related to by blood or marriage

Type of Abuse³

A judge may issue you a protection order when your abuser has:

- Physically abused you, attempted to physically abuse you or put you in fear of serious bodily injury
- Sexually abused you
- Harassed you
- Recklessly endangered you
- Unlawfully held you against your will
- Stalked you

Age

If you are 18 or older, you can get a protection order yourself without adult involvement.⁴ If you are under 18, you will need your parent, adult household member, or a guardian ad litem to file for you.⁵

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

A protection order may be available at any time. Even if the courts are closed you may apply for an Emergency Protection from Abuse Order. The emergency order lasts until the end of the next business day when the court is available.⁶ Whether or not you have an emergency order, you may go to court to file for a temporary protection order. A judge can give you a temporary order that day and will schedule a full hearing within 10 days.⁷ After the hearing, a judge can grant you a final protection order, which lasts up to 3 years and is renewable.⁸

What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

You may ask the court for the following in a protection order:

- Abuser cannot abuse, stalk, contact, or harass you, your minor children or relatives.⁹
- Abuser must stay away from your school or work¹⁰
- Child custody and visitation¹¹
- Other appropriate relief designed to bring an end to the abuse¹⁶
- Child and spousal support¹²
- Money for damages caused by the abuser¹³
- Abuser must not use and must surrender all firearms¹⁴
- Attorney fees¹⁵

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.¹⁷

You have the right to a safe and healthy relationship...
free from violence and free from fear.

¹ 23 Pa. Cons. Stat. §6102(a) (2006).

² *Varner v. Holley*, 854, A. 2d 520, 522 (Pa. Super. 2004); *R.G. v. T. D.*, 672 A. 2d 341 (Pa. Super. 1996).

³ *Id.* §6102.

⁴ *Id.* §6102(a).

⁵ *Id.* §6106(a).

⁶ *Id.* §6110(b).

⁷ *Id.* §6107(a).

⁸ *Id.* §6108(d), (e)(1).

⁹ *Id.* §6108(a)(1), (6), (9).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.* §6108(a)(4).

¹² *Id.* §6108(a)(5).

¹³ *Id.* §6108(a)(8).

¹⁴ *Id.* §6108(a)(7).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.* §6108(a)(10).

¹⁷ *Id.* §6106.

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