

2010

State Law Report Card



Minors' Access to Sensitive Services^{5,6}

- All minors can consent to:
- HIV/STI testing and treatment *
 - Abortion services
 - Medical care for minor child(ren)

*Physicians must report a positive test if the minor is under 12.

Some minors can consent to contraceptive services.

.....

School Response to Dating Violence

Connecticut law does not provide for a school response to dating violence.

.....

Recommendations for Immediate Policy Change

In order to improve Connecticut's response to teen dating violence, the following changes are recommended:

- Allow minors to petition for POs on their own behalf and explicitly describe the procedure for doing so.
- Allow victims of intimate partner sexual abuse, stalking and harassment to seek POs.
- Expand the types of relief available to individuals who seek a Protection Order.
- Mandate dating violence education in all middle schools and high schools.

Access to Protection Orders

In Connecticut, minors can obtain Protection Orders (POs),¹ but the law does not specify whether POs can be granted against minor abusers. Connecticut also allows people in dating relationships to seek POs against their abusers.²

Procedure

State law does not specify whether minors can petition for POs on their own behalf, nor does it specify who may file on their behalf. If a minor is able to file on their own behalf, Connecticut law does not specify whether the parent or guardian of the minor will be notified about the PO.

Definition of Abuse

A judge may issue a PO if the respondent has physically abused or threatened to physically abuse the petitioner.³ The statute fails to explicitly recognize stalking, harassment and sexual abuse as qualifications for relief. The statute may recognize other forms of abuse not specifically listed here.

Relief Available

- The court may order⁴ the respondent to:
- vacate the petitioner's residence;
 - comply with a custody/visitation schedule; and/or
 - other relief within the court's discretion.

The statute may allow other forms of relief not specifically listed here and may cover individuals other than the petitioner.



For more information about state law and policy, visit www.breakthecycle.org or email policy@breakthecycle.org.

2010

State Law Report Card



References

¹ CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 46b-38a(2)(F); 46b-15 (2009).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.* § 46b-38a(1); 46b-15.

⁴ *Id.* § 46b-15(b).

⁵ Guttmacher Institute, An overview of minors' consent law, *State Policies in Brief*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2009, http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_OMCL.pdf, accessed December 1, 2009.

⁶ Guttmacher Institute, Minors' Access to STI Services, *State Policies in Brief*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2009, http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_MASS.pdf, accessed December 1, 2009.

Break the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End
Domestic Violence

For more information about state law
and policy, visit www.breakthecycle.org
or email policy@breakthecycle.org.