



ALABAMA

Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protection order. Because it severely impedes teen victims' access to domestic violence protective orders, Alabama's grade for protecting teen victims of dating and domestic violence is an F.

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Alabama?

Type of Relationship¹

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

- You live with or used to live with
- You have a child with
- You are married to or used to be married to
- In your immediate family
- In your extended family (related to the 6th degree)

Type of Abuse²

A judge is allowed to give you a protection order when your abuser has:

- Physically abused you
- Attempted to physically abuse you
- Threatened to physically abuse you
- Sexually abused you
- Harassed you
- Abused a child
- Recklessly endangered you
- Stalked you
- Held you against your will

Age

If you are 19 years or older, you can obtain a protection order on your own without adult supervision. If you are younger than 19, an adult relative, guardian, a household member, or custodian must file for you.³

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you qualify for a protection order, you can go to court to file for a temporary protection order. After a hearing, the judge may grant you a temporary protection order.³ Within fourteen days of requesting the order, the judge will conduct a full hearing. At that hearing, the judge may grant you a permanent protection order, which lasts up to one year⁴ and is renewable.⁵ The protective order may also be extended to cover your family or other household members.⁶

What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

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

- The abuser must stay away from your home, school or work; minor children or household members; or any specified place the abuser has no legitimate reason to frequent⁷
- The abuser must not harass, annoy, telephone, contact or communicate with you⁸
- Use of a joint residence, specifically excluding abuser from home⁹
- Child custody and visitation rights¹⁰
- Temporary child and spousal support¹¹
- Attorneys fees and court costs¹²

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.¹³

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

¹ Ala. Code § 30-5-2(a)(4) (2007).

² *Id.* § 6320.

³ *Id.* § 30-5-2(a)(2), (5).

³ *Id.* § 30-5-7(b)(1).

⁴ *Id.* § 30-5-6(a), 7(e)(1).

⁵ *Id.* § 30-5-7(e)(2).

⁶ *Id.* § 30-5-7(c)(1).

⁷ *Id.* § 30-5-7(c)(3).

⁸ *Id.* § 30-5-7(c)(1), (2).

⁹ *Id.* § 30-5-7(c)(7), (d)(4).

¹⁰ *Id.* § 30-5-7(c)(4), (d)(2).

¹¹ *Id.* § 30-5-7(d)(5).

¹² *Id.* § 30-5-7(d)(3).

¹³ *Id.* § 30-5-7(c)(1).

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