



KENTUCKY

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

Do I Qualify for a Protective Order in Kentucky?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are married to or used to be married to¹
- You are living with or used to live with²
- You have a child with³
- In your immediate family⁴
- You are related by blood or marriage (to the 2nd degree)⁵

Type of Abuse⁶

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

- Physically abused you
- Attempted to physically abuse you
- Threatened to physically abuse you
- Sexually abused you

Age

If you are 18 or older, you can apply for a protective order yourself, without an adult's permission. If you are under 18 and want a protective order against someone in your family, you will need an adult family member to file for you.⁷ But, if you are under 18 and want an order against someone you have had a relationship with, the law does not say who can file for you. It will be up to the individual courts and judges whether you can get an order without your parent's permission. Check with a local domestic violence organization to see how your local courts handle minors who want protective orders.

How Do I Get a Protective Order?

If you qualify for a protective order, you may go to court to file for a temporary protective order. The judge can give you a temporary protective order and will schedule a full hearing within 14 days.⁸ The temporary order will protect you until the hearing. After the hearing, the judge can grant you a permanent protective order which lasts up to 3 years and is renewable for an additional period of up to 3 years.⁹

What Can I Ask for in a Protective Order?

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

- Abuser must not contact, harass, batter, annoy, threaten, or otherwise communicate with you¹⁰
- Abuser must not commit any acts of domestic violence against you¹¹
- Require abuser to vacate shared premises¹²
- Abuser must not dispose of or damage any of your property¹³
- Temporary child custody¹⁴
- Temporary Child and spousal support¹⁵
- Counseling for both parties¹⁶

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 Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 403.720(2) (2007).

² *Id.* § 403.720(3).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* § 403.720(2).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* § 403.720.

⁷ *Id.* § 403.725(3).

⁸ *Id.* § 403.740(4).

⁹ *Id.* § 403.750(2).

¹⁰ *Id.* § 403.750(1)(a),(b).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* §403.740(1)(d).

¹³ *Id.* §403.740(1)(c).

¹⁴ *Id.* §403.740(1)(e).

¹⁵ *Id.* §403.740(1)(f), (4).

¹⁶ *Id.* §§ 403.725 (5), 403.750 (1)(g).

¹⁷ *Id.* § 403.730(3).

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