



## MAINE

**Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protection order. Because it makes protective orders difficult for teens to obtain, Maine's grade for protecting teen victims of domestic and dating violence is a C.**

### Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Maine?

#### Type of Relationship<sup>1</sup>

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

- You are dating or used to date
- You are living with or used to live with
- You are married to or used to be married to
- You have a child together
- You are having sex with or had sex with
- You are related to by blood or marriage and who is an adult in your household.

#### Type of Abuse<sup>2</sup>

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
- Unlawfully held you against your will
- Stalked you

#### Age

If you are 18 or older, you can get a protection order on your own.<sup>3</sup> If you are under 18 and want a protection order against someone in your family, you will need a person responsible for you to file the papers.<sup>4</sup> In all other cases, 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 protection orders.

### 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. If granted, the order lasts until your hearing, which must be scheduled within 21 days of filing.<sup>5</sup> After a full hearing, a judge can grant you a permanent protection order which lasts up to 2 years and is renewable.<sup>6</sup>

### What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

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

- Abuser must stay away from you, your home, school, work and other places you go<sup>7</sup>
- Abuser must not contact, harass, batter, annoy, threaten, or communicate with you<sup>8</sup>
- Temporary child custody and visitation<sup>9</sup>
- Temporary child and spousal support<sup>10</sup>
- Use of the home or provide alternate housing<sup>11</sup>
- Money for damages caused by the abuser<sup>12</sup>
- Abuser not to own or possess any firearm<sup>13</sup>
- Counseling for abuser<sup>14</sup>
- Attorney's fees and court costs<sup>15</sup>

### How Much Will It Cost?

It is free<sup>16</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 19-A, § 4002(4) (2006).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* § 4002.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* § 4002(2).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* § 4005(1).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* § 4006(1), (2).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* § 4007(2).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(C), (D).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(A).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(G).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(I), (J).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(E).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(K).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(A-1).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(H).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* § 4007(1)(L).

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* § 4005(4).

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