



MARYLAND

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, Maryland's grade for protecting teen victims of dating and domestic violence is an F.

Do I Qualify for a Protective Order in Maryland?

Type of Relationship

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

- You have lived with and have had a sexual relationship with for at least 90 days within the last year¹
- You have a child with²
- You are married to or used to be married to³
- You are related to by blood, marriage or adoption⁴
- Who is your parent, child, stepparent, or stepchild and who you lived with for at least 90 days within the last year⁵

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 physical abuse
- Sexually abused you
- Held you against your will
- Stalked you

Age

If you are 18 or older, you can file for a protective order on your own. If you are under 18, an adult relative, an adult who lives with you, the Maryland state attorney, or the department of social services can file for you.⁷

How Do I Get a Protective Order?

If your situation is urgent, you can get an interim protective order whenever the court is closed. These emergency orders last for 2 business days or until the date of the temporary order hearing.⁸ Whether or not you have an interim order, you may file for a temporary protective order. The temporary order will protect you until the full hearing, which will be held within 7 days of filing.⁹ After the hearing, the judge can grant you a permanent protective order which lasts 1 year and is renewable for up to another 6 months.¹⁰

What Can I Ask for in a Protective Order?

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

- The abuser must stay away from your work, school, home, child care and other family members' homes¹¹
- Abuser cannot threaten, harass, abuse, contact or attempt to contact you.¹²
- Use of the property¹³
- Temporary child custody and visitation¹⁴
- Temporary child and spousal support¹⁵
- Counseling for all parties¹⁶
- Attorneys fees and court costs¹⁷

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free¹⁸.

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

¹ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § § 4-501(d) (2007).

² *Id.* § 4-501(L)(6).

³ *Id.* § 4-501(L)(1).

⁴ *Id.* § 4-501(L)(3).

⁵ *Id.* § 4-501(L)(4).

⁶ *Id.* § 4-501(b)(1)-(3).

⁷ *Id.* § 4-501(m)(2)(ii).

⁸ *Id.* § 4-504.1(g).

⁹ *Id.* § 4-505(c)(1).

¹⁰ *Id.* §§ 4-506(b)(2)(iii), 4-507(a)(2).

¹¹ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(5)-(6).

¹² *Id.* § 4-506(d)(1)-(2).

¹³ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(4), (e).

¹⁴ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(7), (8).

¹⁵ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(9).

¹⁶ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(11).

¹⁷ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(13).

¹⁸ *Id.* § 4-504(c).

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