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COLORADO

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

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Colorado?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are in an intimate relationship with or used to be in an intimate relationship with¹
- You are living with or used to live with²
- Have a child with³
- You are now or used to be related to⁴

Type of Abuse⁵

A judge may issue you a protection order when your abuser has:

- Physically abused you
- Attempted to physically abuse you.
- Threatened to act violently against you
- Stalked you
- Acted or threatened to act violently against your minor child.
- Sexually abused you

Age

If you are 18 years or older, you can obtain a protection order on your own without an adult's permission. For minors under 18, the law does not say how you can file for a protection order. This means that it is up to individual courts and judges to decide whether you can get one without your parent's permission. Check with local domestic violence organizations to see how your local courts handle minors who request protection orders. You cannot get a protection order against someone who is 10 or younger.⁶

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you qualify for a protection order, you can get an emergency protection order from the police any time the courts are closed.⁷ Emergency orders last until the end of the next day the court is open.⁸ Whether or not you have an emergency order, the next step is to go to county court to file for a temporary protection order. The temporary order lasts up to fourteen days, until you go back to court for a hearing. After a hearing, the judge can issue a protection order that will remain in effect permanently or until the judge grants a motion to dismiss¹ the order.⁹

What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

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

- Order the abuser not to contact you or your children, including through third parties¹⁰
- Order the abuser to stay away from your family home, work, school, or daycare¹¹
- Temporary child custody and visitation¹²
- Order the abuser to continue paying bills¹³
- Attorneys' fees¹⁴

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.¹⁵

¹ A permanent protection order can never be dismissed if the abuser has been convicted of misdemeanor or felony domestic violence. Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-14-102 (17.5) (2008).

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

¹ Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-14-101(2) (2008).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at § 13-14-101.

⁶ *Id.* at § 13-14-102(1.5).

⁷ *Id.* at § 13-14-103(1)(f).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.* at § 13-14-102(7)-(9).

¹⁰ *Id.* at § 13-14-102(15)(b).

¹¹ *Id.* at § 13-14-102(15)(c) and (d).

¹² *Id.* at § 13-14-102(15)(e)(I), (II).

¹³ *Id.* at § 13-14-102(15)(g)(I).

¹⁴ *Id.* at § 13-14-102(21)(c).

¹⁵ *Id.* at § 13-14-102(21)(a).

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