



# ILLINOIS

Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protection order. Because it makes protection orders very accessible to teens, Illinois' grade for protecting teen victims of domestic and dating violence is an A.

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

### 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 have a child with
- You are married to or used to be married to
- You are related to by blood or marriage, including parents, children, step-children and people who share a blood relationship through a child

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

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

- Physically abused you or threatened or attempted to physically abuse you
- Repeatedly called you at work or home
- Harassed you
- Stalked you
- Created a disturbance at school or work
- Threatened to take or hide your minor child from you

### Age

If you are 18 years or older, you can obtain a protection order yourself without an adult's permission. If you are under 18, any adult may file for you.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the law specifically states that a protection order shall not be denied because the person seeking the order is a minor.<sup>4</sup>

## How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you qualify for a protection order, you can go to court and file for an emergency protection order. A judge can give you an emergency order, which can last from 14 to 21 days, on the same day you file and will schedule a time for you to come back to court for a full hearing.<sup>5</sup> After the hearing, a judge can give you a permanent protection order which usually lasts for 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 and must stay away from your home, school, workplace and other places.<sup>7</sup>
- Counseling for the abuser<sup>10</sup>
- Money for damages caused by the abuser (includes temporary shelter and meals).<sup>8</sup>
- Use, possession and/or protection of personal or joint property.<sup>11</sup>
- Child custody, visitation and support.<sup>9</sup>
- Abuser may not possess any firearms.<sup>12</sup>
- Attorneys' fees<sup>13</sup>.

## How Much Will It Cost?

It is free<sup>14</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> 750 Ill. Comp. Stat. 60/103(6) (2007).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* 60/103(1), (7), (14).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* 60/201(b).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* 60/214(a).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* 60/220(a)(1).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* 60/220(b), (e).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* 60/214(b)(3), 60/217-219.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* 60/214(b)(13).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* 60/214(b)(5)-(7), (12).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* 60/214(b)(4), 60-218(a).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* 60/214(b)(10)-(11).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* 60/214(b)(14.5).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* 60/214(b)(13).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* 60/220(b).

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