



IOWA

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

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Iowa?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are dating or dated within the past year¹
- You are married or used to be married⁴
- You are living together or used to live together²
- You are related by blood or marriage (only if you are 18 or older) and you are living together or lived together in the past year⁵
- You have a child together³

Type of Abuse⁶

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

- Physically abused you
- Attempted to physically abuse you
- Pointed a firearm or other weapon at you
- Placed you in fear of immediate physical contact and has the apparent ability to accomplish the act

Age⁷

If you are 18 years or older, you can get a protection order yourself, without an adult's permission. If you are under 18, you will need a parent or guardian to file for you.

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If your situation is urgent, you can get an emergency protection order¹ from a District Court Judge or District Associate Judge at any time.⁸ These emergency orders last for 72 hours.⁹ Whether or not you have an emergency order, you may go to court to file for a temporary protection order. The judge can give you a temporary order that will protect you until the full hearing, which must be scheduled 5 to 15 days after filing for the temporary order.¹⁰ After a full hearing, a judge can grant you a permanent protection order which lasts 1 year and is renewable.¹¹

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 your home, school or work and cannot abuse you¹²
- Child custody and visitation¹⁴
- Child and spousal support¹⁵
- Use of your home or provide alternate housing¹³
- Counseling for victim and abuser¹⁶
- Attorneys fees and court costs¹⁷

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free¹⁸.

ⁱ Advocates report that emergency protection orders are issued very infrequently. If you are considering filing for an emergency protection order, please check with your local domestic violence organization to see how your local courts handle them.

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

¹ Iowa Code § 236.2(2)(e), (5) (2006).

² *Id.* § 236.2(4)(a), (d).

³ *Id.* § 236.2(c).

⁴ *Id.* § 236.2(2)(b).

⁵ *Id.* § 236.2(2)(a), (d), (4)(a).

⁶ *Id.* § 708.1.

⁷ *Id.* § 236.3.

⁸ *Id.* § 236.6(1).

⁹ *Id.* § 236.6(2).

¹⁰ *Id.* § 236.4(1).

¹¹ *Id.* § 236.5 (2)(e).

¹² *Id.* § 236.5(2)(a), (c).

¹³ *Id.* § 236.5(2)(b).

¹⁴ *Id.* § 236.5(2)(d).

¹⁵ *Id.* § 236.5(2)(e).

¹⁶ *Id.* § 236.5(1).

¹⁷ *Id.* § 236.5(3).

¹⁸ *Id.* § 236.3.

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