



KENTUCKY

Break the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End
Domestic Violence

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Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protection order. Because it severely impedes teen victims' access to domestic violence protection orders, Kentucky's grade for protecting teen victims of dating and domestic violence is an F.

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Kentucky?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are married to or used to be married to¹
- You are living with or used to live with²
- You have a child with³
- In your immediate family⁴
- You are related by blood or marriage (to the 2nd degree)⁵

Type of Abuse⁶

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

- Physically abused you
- Attempted to physically abuse you
- Threatened to physically abuse you
- Sexually abused you

Age

If you are 18 or older, you can apply for a protection order yourself, without an adult's permission. If you are under 18 and want a protection order against someone in your family, you will need an adult family member to file for you.⁷ But, if you are under 18 and want an order against someone you have had a relationship with, 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 may go to court to file for a temporary protection order. The judge can give you a temporary protection order and will schedule a full hearing within 14 days.⁸ The temporary order will protect you until the hearing. After the hearing, the judge can grant you a permanent protection order which lasts up to 3 years and is renewable for an additional period of up to 3 years.⁹

What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

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

- Abuser must not contact, harass, batter, annoy, threaten, or otherwise communicate with you¹⁰
- Abuser must not commit any acts of domestic violence against you¹¹
- Require abuser to vacate shared premises¹²
- Abuser must not dispose of or damage any of your property¹³
- Temporary child custody¹⁴
- Temporary Child and spousal support¹⁵
- Counseling for both parties¹⁶

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.¹⁷

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

¹ Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 403.720(2) (2007).

² *Id.* § 403.720(3).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* § 403.720(2).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* § 403.720.

⁷ *Id.* § 403.725(3).

⁸ *Id.* § 403.740(4).

⁹ *Id.* § 403.750(2).

¹⁰ *Id.* § 403.750(1)(a),(b).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* §403.740(1)(d).

¹³ *Id.* §403.740(1)(c).

¹⁴ *Id.* §403.740(1)(e).

¹⁵ *Id.* §403.740(1)(f), (4).

¹⁶ *Id.* §§ 403.725 (5), 403.750 (1)(g).

¹⁷ *Id.* § 403.730(3).

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