



# LOUISIANA

**Break** the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence

[www.breakthecycle.org](http://www.breakthecycle.org)

[www.thesafespace.org](http://www.thesafespace.org)

888.988.TEEN

[askanything@breakthecycle.org](mailto:askanything@breakthecycle.org)

**Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protection order. Because it makes protection orders reasonably accessible to teens, Louisiana's grade for protecting teen victims of domestic and dating violence is a B.**

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

### Type of Relationship

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

- You are dating or used to date<sup>1</sup>
- You are married to or used to be married to<sup>3</sup>
- You are living with or used to live with (you and the abuser must be a man and a woman)<sup>2</sup>
- Who is your parent, child, Stepparent, stepchild, foster parent, foster child, grandparents or grandchild<sup>4</sup>

### Type of Abuse<sup>5</sup>

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

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

### Age

If you are 18 or older, you can obtain a protection order on your own, without an adult's permission. If you are under 18, you will need a parent, adult household member or district attorney to file for you.<sup>6</sup>

## How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you qualify for a protection order, you can go to court to file for a temporary protection order. A judge can grant you the temporary order the same day and will schedule a full hearing within 15 days of granting the order.<sup>7</sup> After the hearing, the judge can grant you a permanent protection order which lasts 18 months and is renewable at the discretion of the court.<sup>8</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 your home, school, work, and other places you often go<sup>9</sup>
- Abuser must not harass or abuse you or your children<sup>10</sup>
- Money for damages caused by the abuser<sup>11</sup>
- Temporary child custody and visitation<sup>12</sup>
- Temporary child and spousal support<sup>13</sup>
- Temporary and exclusive use of joint property<sup>14</sup>
- Counseling for both victim and abuser at abuser's expense<sup>15</sup>
- Attorney's fees<sup>16</sup>

## How Much Will It Cost?

It is free<sup>17</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> La. Rev. Stat. § 46:2151(B) (2006).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* § 46:2132(4).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* § 46:2132.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* §§ 46:2132(1), 46:2133(C).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* § 46:2135(B), (D).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* § 46:2136(F).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* § 46:2135(A)(1).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* § 46:2136.1.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* § 46:2135(A)(3), (5).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* § 46:2135(A)(2).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* § 46:213g(A)(2).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* § 46:2136(A)(4).

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* § 46:2136.1.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* § 46:2136.1.

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