



MARYLAND

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

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order¹ in Maryland?

Type of Relationship

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

- You have lived with and have had a sexual relationship with for at least 90 days within the last year¹
- You have a child with²
- You are married to or used to be married to³
- You are related to by blood, marriage or adoption⁴
- Who is your parent, child, stepparent, or stepchild and who you lived with for at least 90 days within the last year⁵
- Who has abused you within the last 30 days⁶

Type of Abuse⁷

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

- Physically abused you
- Attempted to physically abuse you
- Threatened physical abuse
- Sexually abused you
- Held you against your will
- Stalked you

Age

If you are 18 or older, you can file for a protection order or a peace order on your own. If you are under 18, an adult relative, an adult who lives with you, the Maryland state attorney, or the department of social services can file for you.⁸

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If your situation is urgent, you can get an interim protection order or peace order whenever the court is closed. These emergency orders last for 2 business days or until the date of the temporary order hearing.⁹ Whether or not you have an interim order, you may file for a temporary protection order. The temporary order will protect you until the full hearing, which will be held within 7 days of filing.¹⁰ After the hearing, the judge can grant you a final protection order which lasts 1 year and is renewable for up to another 6 months.¹¹ Final peace orders are effective for up to 6 months.¹²

What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

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

- The abuser must stay away from your work, school, home, child care and other family members' homes¹³
- Abuser cannot threaten, harass, abuse, contact or attempt to contact you.¹⁴
- Use and possession of the residence¹⁵
- Temporary child custody and visitation¹⁶
- Temporary child and spousal support¹⁷
- Counseling for all parties¹⁸
- Attorneys fees and court costs¹⁹

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free²⁰.

ⁱ The Maryland protection order statute does not include non-cohabitating dating or sexual relationships; however any person who is not eligible to petition for a protection order is eligible for a peace order, which offers similar relief.

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

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- ¹ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-501(l)(2) (2007).
² *Id.* § 4-501(l)(6).
³ *Id.* § 4-501(l)(1).
⁴ *Id.* § 4-501(l)(3).
⁵ *Id.* § 4-501(l)(4).
⁶ Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. §§ 3-1501(f), 3-1503(a).
⁷ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-501(b); Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1503(a).
⁸ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-501(m)(2)(ii).
⁹ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-504.1(g); Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1503.1.
¹⁰ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-505(c)(1); Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1504(c).
¹¹ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. §§ 4-506(b)(2)(iii), 4-507(a)(2).
¹² Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1505(f).
¹³ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-506(d)(5), (6); Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1505(d)(1)(iii), (iv).
¹⁴ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-506(d)(1), (2); Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1505(d)(1)(ii).
¹⁵ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(4).
¹⁶ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(7), (8).
¹⁷ *Id.* § 4-506(d)(9).
¹⁸ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-506(d)(11); Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1505(d)(1)(v).
¹⁹ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-506(d)(13); Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 3-1505(d)(1)(vi).
²⁰ Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law. § 4-504(c).

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