



# MISSOURI

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, Missouri's grade for protecting teen victims of dating and domestic violence is an F.

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

### Type of Relationship

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

- You are dating or used to date (as long as both of you are over 18)<sup>1</sup>
- You are living with or used to live with (as long as both of you are over 18)<sup>2</sup>
- You have a child with (as long as both of you are over 18)<sup>3</sup>
- You are married to or used to be married to<sup>4</sup>
- You are related to by blood or marriage (as long as both of you are over 18)<sup>5</sup>

### Type of Abuse<sup>6</sup>

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
- Harassed you
- Emotionally abused you
- Unlawfully held you against your will
- Stalked you

### Age

If you are 18 or older, you can obtain a protection order yourself, without an adult's involvement.<sup>7</sup> If you are under 18 years old, you will not qualify for a protection order. The law specifically states it applies only to adults.<sup>8</sup>

## How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you qualify, you can go to court to apply for a temporary protection order.<sup>9</sup> The judge can give you a temporary order immediately and will schedule a full hearing within 15 days of requesting protection.<sup>10</sup> After the hearing, a judge can grant you a permanent protection order which lasts for 180 days to 1 year and is renewable.<sup>11</sup>

## What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

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

- Abuser must not communicate, abuse, or stalk you<sup>12</sup>
- Abuser may not enter your home<sup>13</sup>
- Use or possession of the home, car and other essential property<sup>14</sup>
- Money for damages caused by the abuser<sup>15</sup>
- Child and Spousal support<sup>16</sup>
- Child custody and visitation<sup>17</sup>
- Attorneys fees<sup>18</sup>
- Counseling<sup>19</sup>

## How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.<sup>20</sup>

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Mo. Rev. Stat. §455.010(5) (2006).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

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

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

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* §455.010(5).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* §§455.501(1); 455.505.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* §455.010(2).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* §455.010(5).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* §455.035(1).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* §455.040(1).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* §455.050(1.) (3).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* §455.050(1.) (2).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* §§455.045(2), 455.050(3)(7).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* §455.050(3.) (12), (4.).

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* § 455.050(3.) (3), (4).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* §455.050(3) (1), (2).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* §455.075.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* §455.050(3.) (9).

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* §455.027.

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