



WASHINGTON

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

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Washington?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are dating or used to date (if you are both 16 years or older)
- You live with or used to live with while dating (if you are both 16 years or older)¹
- You have a child with²
- You are married to or used to be married to³
- You live with or used to live with (if you are both over 18)⁴
- You are related to by blood or marriage (if you are both over 18)⁵
- Who is your parent, child, stepparent, stepchild, grandparent, or grandchild⁶

Type of Abuse⁷

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
- Sexually assaulted you
- Stalked you

Age

If you are 16 or older, you can get a protection order yourself without an adult's permission.⁸ If you are under 16, you will need an adult family or household member to file for you.⁹

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you want a protection order, you can go to court to file for a temporary order for protection, which will last for 14 to 24 days.¹⁰ A judge can give you a temporary order that day and will also schedule a date for a full hearing. After the hearing, a judge can give you a permanent order for protection that will last for a fixed period or can be permanent and may be renewed 3 months before it expires.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 you¹²
- Abuser must not abuse or contact you or your child or household members¹³
- Counseling for abuser¹⁴
- Temporary possession or use of the home, car and other essential personal items¹⁵
- Attorneys fees and court costs¹⁶

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 Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §26.50-010(2),(3) (2007).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* §26.50.010(2).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* § 9-15-103.

⁸ *Id.* §26.50.020(2).

⁹ *Id.* §26.50.020(1)-(2).

¹⁰ *Id.* §26.50.070(4).

¹¹ *Id.* §26.50.060(2)-(3).

¹² *Id.* §26.50.070(1)(c).

¹³ *Id.* §26.50.070(1)(a), (e).

¹⁴ *Id.* §26.50.060(1)(e).

¹⁵ *Id.* §§26.50.010(7), 26.50.060(1)(b), (k)-(l)

¹⁶ *Id.* §26.50.060(1)(g).

¹⁷ *Id.* §26.50.030 (4).

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