



WYOMING

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

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Wyoming?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are dating or used to date¹
- You are living with or used to live with²
- You have a child with³
- You are married to or used to be married to⁴
- Who is your parent or your child (only if you are over 18)⁵

Type of Abuse⁶

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

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

Age

If you are 16 or older, or legally married, you can obtain a protection order on your own.⁷ If you are younger than 16, the law does not say who can file for you. It will be up to the individual courts and judges whether you can get a protection order without your parent's permission. Check with a local domestic violence organization to see how your local courts handle minors who want orders of protection.

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you qualify for a protection order, you can go to court to file for a temporary order of protection. A judge can give you a temporary order of protection that day and will also schedule a full hearing within 72 hours of granting the temporary order.⁸ After a full hearing, the court can grant you a permanent order of protection, which can last up to one year and is renewable.⁹

What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

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

- Abuser cannot initiate contact with you¹⁰
- Abuser cannot abduct, remove, or conceal your children or property in your custody¹¹
- Temporary or exclusive use of residence¹²
- Attorney fees¹³
- Temporary child custody and visitation¹⁴
- Temporary child and spousal support¹⁵
- Money for damage caused by abuser (including medical expenses)¹⁶
- Counseling for abuser for up to 90 days¹⁷

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.¹⁸

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

¹ Wyo. Stat. Ann. §35-21-102(a)(iv)(H) (2006).

² *Id.* §35-21-102(a)(iv)(D), (F).

³ *Id.* §35-21-102(a)(iv)(G).

⁴ *Id.* §35-21-102(a)(iv)(A), (C).

⁵ *Id.* §35-21-102(a)(iv)(E).

⁶ *Id.* §35-21-102(a)(iii).

⁷ *Id.* §§35-21-102(a)(i), 35-21-103(a).

⁸ *Id.* §35-21-104(a)(iii).

⁹ *Id.* §35-21-106(b).

¹⁰ *Id.* §35-21-105(a)(iii).

¹¹ *Id.* §35-21-105(a)(iv), (v).

¹² *Id.* §35-21-105(a)(i).

¹³ *Id.* §35-21-103(h).

¹⁴ *Id.* §35-21-105 (b)(i).

¹⁵ *Id.* §35-21-105 (b)(ii).

¹⁶ *Id.* §35-21-105(b)(iii).

¹⁷ *Id.* §35-21-105(a)(vii).

¹⁸ *Id.* §35-21-103(d).

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