



ARKANSAS

Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protective order. Because it makes orders of protection reasonably accessible to youth, Arkansas' grade for protecting young victims of domestic and dating violence is a B.

Do I Qualify for an Order of Protection in Arkansas?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are dating or used to date¹
- You are living with or used to live with²
- You are married to or used to be married to³
- You have a child with⁴
- In your immediate family⁵
- In your extended family (to the 4th degree)⁶

Type of Abuse⁷

A judge is allowed to give you an order of protection when your abuser has:

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

Age

If you are 18 years or older, you can obtain an order of protection on your own without adult supervision. If you are under 18, you will need a family or household member or an employee/volunteer from a domestic violence program or shelter to file on your behalf.⁸

How Do I Get a Protective Order?

If you qualify for an order of protection, you can go to court to file for a temporary protective order. After a hearing, the judge may grant you a temporary protective order that will last for at least 30 days.⁹ Within 30 days of requesting the order, a judge will conduct a full hearing. At that hearing, the judge may grant you a permanent order of protection, which lasts up to ten years and is renewable.¹⁰ This order of protection can also cover and protect other family and household members.¹¹

What Can I Ask for in an Order of Protection?

You may ask the court for the following in an order of protection:

- Abuser must stay away from your work, school, or other places that you frequent¹²
- Abuser must not contact, threaten, injure, mistreat, molest, or harass you¹³
- Temporary child visitation rights upon the agreement that abuser will get counseling¹⁴
- Temporary child custody¹⁵
- Temporary child support and spousal support¹⁶
- Temporary use of a shared residence, specifically excluding abuser from home¹⁷
- Attorney's fees¹⁸

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.¹⁹

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

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- ¹ Ark. Code Ann. § 9-15-103(3), (4)(A) (2006).
² *Id.* § 9-15-103(3).
³ *Id.*
⁴ *Id.*
⁵ *Id.*
⁶ *Id.*
⁷ *Id.* § 9-15-103.
⁸ Ark. Code Ann. §§ 9-15-201(d); 203(b).
⁹ Ark. Code Ann. § 9-15-206(c).
¹⁰ *Id.* § 9-15-205(b).
¹¹ *Id.* § 9-15-205(a)(7)(A).
¹² *Id.* § 9-15-205(a)(2).
¹³ *Id.* §§ 9-15-205(A)(6), (7)(B).
¹⁴ *Id.* §§ 9-15-205(a)(3), 9-27-331(d)(1)(A), 9-27-341.
¹⁵ *Id.* § 9-15-205(a)(3).
¹⁶ *Id.* § 9-15-205(a)(4).
¹⁷ *Id.* § 9-15-205(a)(1).
¹⁸ *Id.* § 9-15-202(c)(2).
¹⁹ *Id.* § 9-15-202(a),(c)(1).

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