



## COLORADO

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

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

#### Type of Relationship

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

- You are in an intimate relationship with or used to be in an intimate relationship with<sup>1</sup>
- You are living with or used to live with<sup>2</sup>
- You are married to or used to be married to<sup>3</sup>
- Have a child with<sup>4</sup>
- In your immediate family<sup>5</sup>
- In your extended family<sup>6</sup>

#### Type of Abuse<sup>7</sup>

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

- Physically abused you
- Attempted to physically abuse you.
- Threatened to act violently against you
- Acted or threatened to act violently against your minor child.
- Sexually abused you

#### Age

If you are 18 years or older, you can obtain a protection order on your own without an adult's permission.<sup>8</sup> For minors under 18, the law does not say how you can file for a protection order. This means that it is up to individual courts and judges to decide whether you can get one without your parent's permission. Check with local domestic violence organizations to see how your local courts handle minors who request protection orders. Also, you cannot get a protection order against someone who is 10 or younger.<sup>9</sup>

#### How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you qualify for a protection order, you can get an emergency protective order from the police any time the courts are closed.<sup>10</sup> Emergency orders last until the end of the next day the court is open.<sup>11</sup> Whether or not you have an emergency order, the next step is to go to court to file for a temporary protection order. The temporary order lasts up to fourteen days, until you go back to court for a hearing. After a full hearing, the judge can grant a permanent protection order that will remain in effect for as long as the judge deems necessary.<sup>12</sup>

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

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

- Order the abuser to stay away from you<sup>13</sup>
- Order the abuser not to abuse, touch, harass, threaten, intimidate or contact you and your children<sup>14</sup>
- Attorney fees<sup>15</sup>
- Temporary child custody and visitation<sup>16</sup>
- Temporary use of residence, specifically excluding abuser from home<sup>17</sup>

#### How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.<sup>18</sup>

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-14-101(2), 18-6-800.3(2) (2006).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-101(2).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at § 18-6-800.3(2).

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

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 13-14-101(2).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at § 18-6-800.3.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-101.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-101(1.5).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-102(1.5).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* § 13-14-103(1)(f).

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

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* § 13-14-102(7)-(9).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-101(2.4)(a).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-102(21)(c).

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-102(15)(e)(I), (II).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-102(15)(c).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* at § 13-14-102(21)(a).

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