



ILLINOIS

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

Do I Qualify for an Order of Protection in Illinois?

Type of Relationship¹

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

- You are dating or used to date
- You are living with or used to live with
- You have a child with
- You are married to or used to be married to
- You are related to by blood or marriage, including parents, children, step-children and people who share a blood relationship through a child

Type of Abuse²

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

- Physically abused you or threatened or attempted to physically abuse you
- Repeatedly called you at work or home
- Harassed you
- Stalked you
- Created a disturbance at school or work
- Threatened to take or hide your minor child from you

Age

If you are 18 years or older, you can obtain an order of protection yourself without an adult's permission. If you are under 18, any adult may file for you.³ Additionally, the law specifically states that a protective order shall not be denied because the person seeking the order is a minor.⁴

How Do I Get an Order of Protection?

If you qualify for an order of protection, you can go to court and file for an emergency order of protection. A judge can give you an emergency order, which can last from 14 to 21 days, on the same day you file and will schedule a time for you to come back to court for a full hearing.⁵ After the hearing, a judge can give you a permanent order of protection which usually lasts for 2 years and is renewable.⁶

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 you and must stay away from your home, school, workplace and other places.⁷
- Counseling for the abuser¹⁰
- Money for damages caused by the abuser (includes temporary shelter and meals).⁸
- Use, possession and/or protection of personal or joint property.¹¹
- Child custody, visitation and support.⁹
- Abuser may not possess any firearms.¹²
- Attorneys fees¹³.

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free¹⁴.

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

¹ 750 Ill. Comp. Stat. 60/103(6) (2007).

² *Id.* 60/103(1), (7), (14).

³ *Id.* 60/201(b).

⁴ *Id.* 60/214(a).

⁵ *Id.* 60/220(a)(1).

⁶ *Id.* 60/220(b), (e).

⁷ *Id.* 60/214(b)(3), 60/217-219.

⁸ *Id.* 60/214(b)(13).

⁹ *Id.* 60/214(b)(5)-(7), (12).

¹⁰ *Id.* 60/214(b)(4), 60-218(a).

¹¹ *Id.* 60/214(b)(10)-(11).

¹² *Id.* 60/214(b)(14.5).

¹³ *Id.* 60/214(b)(13).

¹⁴ *Id.* 60/220(b).

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