



MISSOURI

Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protective order. Because it severely impedes teen victims' access to domestic violence protective orders, Missouri's grade for protecting teen victims of dating and domestic violence is an F.

Do I Qualify for an Order of Protection in Missouri?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are dating or used to date (as long as both of you are over 18)¹
- You are living with or used to live with (as long as both of you are over 18)²
- You have a child with (as long as both of you are over 18)³
- You are married to or used to be married to⁴
- You are related to by blood or marriage (as long as both of you are over 18)⁵

Type of Abuse⁶

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
- Harassed you
- Emotionally abused you
- Unlawfully held you against your will
- Stalked you

Age

If you are 18 or older, you can obtain an order of protection yourself, without an adult's involvement.⁷ If you are under 18 years old, you will not qualify for an order of protection. The law specifically states it applies only to adults.⁸

How Do I Get an Order of Protection?

If you qualify, you can go to court to apply for a temporary protective order.⁹ The judge can give you a temporary order immediately and will schedule a full hearing within 15 days of requesting protection.¹⁰ After the hearing, a judge can grant you a permanent order of protection which lasts for 180 days to 1 year and is renewable.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 not communicate, abuse, or stalk you¹²
- Abuser may not enter your home¹³
- Use or possession of the home, car and other essential property¹⁴
- Money for damages caused by the abuser¹⁵
- Child and Spousal support¹⁶
- Child custody and visitation¹⁷
- Attorneys fees¹⁸
- Counseling¹⁹

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.²⁰

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

¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. §455.010(5) (2006).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* §455.010(5).

⁶ *Id.* §§455.501(1); 455.505.

⁷ *Id.* §455.010(2).

⁸ *Id.* §455.010(5).

⁹ *Id.* §455.035(1).

¹⁰ *Id.* §455.040(1).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* §455.050(1.) (3).

¹³ *Id.* §455.050(1.) (2).

¹⁴ *Id.* §§455.045(2), 455.050(3)(7).

¹⁵ *Id.* §455.050(3.) (12), (4.).

¹⁶ *Id.* § 455.050(3.) (3), (4).

¹⁷ *Id.* §455.050(3) (1), (2).

¹⁸ *Id.* §455.075.

¹⁹ *Id.* §455.050(3.) (9).

²⁰ *Id.* §455.027.

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