



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protective order. Because it makes restraining orders very accessible to teens, New Hampshire's grade for protecting teen victims of domestic and dating violence is an A.

Do I Qualify for a Protective Order in New Hampshire?

Type of Relationship

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

- You are or used to be involved in an intimate or sexual relationship with¹
- You are living with or used to live with²
- You are married to or used to be married to³
- You are related to by blood or marriage⁴

Type of Abuse⁵

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

- Physically abused you or attempted or threatened to physically abuse you
- Sexually abused you
- Harassed you
- Unlawfully held you against your will
- Destroyed your property

Age

No matter how old you are, even if you are under 18, you can get a protective order by yourself, without an adult or your parent's permission.⁶

How Do I Get a Protective Order?

If your situation is urgent, you can get an emergency protective order from the police at any time. An emergency order lasts until the end of the next business day.⁷ Whether or not you have an emergency order, you can go to court to get a temporary protective order. After a full hearing, which must be scheduled within 30 days of asking for protection, a judge can give you a permanent protective order which lasts 1 year and can be extended for an additional 1 to 5 years.⁸

What Can I Ask for in a Protective Order?

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

- Abuser cannot enter your home, work, school or any other frequented places⁹
- Abuser must not harass, threaten, or abuse you or your family and household members¹⁰
- The abuser cannot communicate with you, directly or indirectly¹¹
- Temporary child custody and visitation¹²
- Child and spousal support¹³
- Money for damages caused by the abuser¹⁴
- Temporary and/or exclusive use of the property¹⁵
- Counseling for abuser¹⁶
- Attorneys fees¹⁷
- The abuser is not allowed to possess or purchase a firearm.¹⁸

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.

¹ N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §173-B:1(XV) (2007).

² *Id.* §173-B:1(X)(a).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.* §173B:1(X)(b)

⁵ *Id.* §173-B:1.

⁶ *Id.* §173-B:3(II)(a), (b).

⁷ *Id.* §173-B:4(I).

⁸ *Id.* §§173-B:3(VII), B:4, B:5(VI).

⁹ *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(a)(2),(3).

¹⁰ *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(a), (IV).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(b)(1), (6).

¹³ *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(b)(8).

¹⁴ *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(b)(9).

¹⁵ *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(b)(1).

¹⁶ *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(b)(8).

¹⁷ *Id.* §173-B:5(I)(b)(10).

¹⁸ *Id.* §173-B:5(II).

¹⁹ *Id.* §173-B:3(III).

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