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# PROTECTION ORDERS: SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MINORS

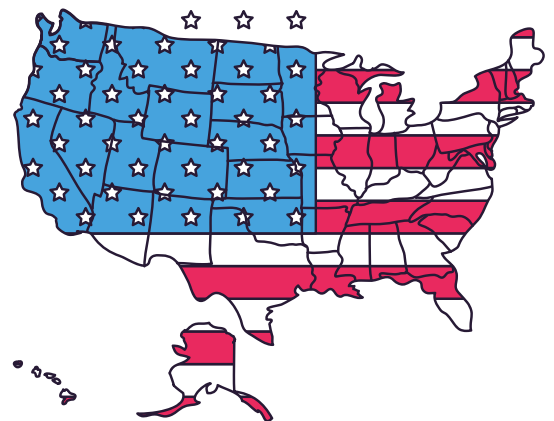
A protection order (also known as a restraining order) can help protect victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from the person being abusive. It is called an "order" because it is signed by a judge and orders the person being abusive to do certain things, like stay away from you. There are many types of protection orders. In this handout, we are talking about domestic violence protection orders.

A minor is anyone under the age of 18, unless they are emancipated. Minors and their guardians need to know special information in order to secure a protection order. You can learn more about domestic violence protection orders in our Protection Orders 101 handout.

## Your state laws determine whether a minor can get a protection order.

Research these questions in your state:

- Is a minor allowed to get a protection order?
- What is the minimum age to ask the court for a protection order?
- Can a minor petition (make a request to the court) for themselves or do they need a parent to make the request for them?
- If a minor petitions for themselves, will the court report it to their parent or guardian?
- What types of abuse are covered? For instance, some states do not cover digital abuse





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## As a young person, you may want to ask for special protections like these:

- The person being abusive can't contact or harass you on social media (like Twitter, Snapchat, or Instagram)
- Require that the person being abusive delete sexual or offensive comments, pictures, or videos of you from social media and their cell phones
- Request that the protection order lasts for as long as possible so that you do not have to come back to court to extend it
- Orders related to school (see below)



## What if both of you attend the same school or after-school activities?

Ask the court for special protections that require the person being abusive to:

- Stay away from your school
- Stay a certain distance from you while at school
- Stay out of certain areas of your school
- Stay out of certain after-school activities





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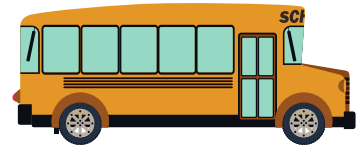
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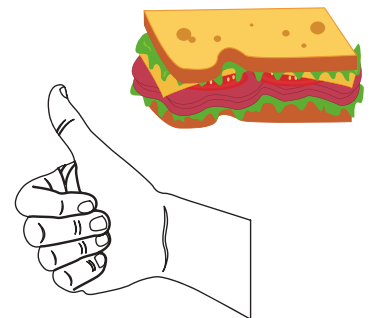
## You can also ask your school for these protections:

- No contact on school grounds or at school activities
- Changes in class schedules to limit contact
- Requirements that both of you enter and exit the school through different doors
- School and bus escorts to ensure safety
- Require the school to have healthy relationships, consent, or sexual abuse classes or counseling for the person being abusive
- Expel or suspend the person being abusive



## A personal safety plan can provide you with more safety and security. Consider these items in your safety planning:

- The safest route and method of transportation to get home from school
- Finding a buddy to walk with you from class to class or to and from school
- Areas on your school campus that feel safe
- Where and with whom you will spend lunch and free periods



Find safety planning guides and more information on our legal services at [breakthecycle.org](http://breakthecycle.org).

**These practices highlight good options, but are no substitute for the judgment of a survivor and their attorney in each case. This is not legal advice.**