

2010

State Law Report Card



Access to Protection Orders

In Colorado, minors can obtain Protection Orders (POs)¹ and courts can issue POs against minor abusers.² Colorado also allows people in dating relationships to seek POs against their abusers.³

Procedure*

State law does not specify whether minors can petition for POs on their own behalf, nor does it specify who may file on their behalf. If a minor is able to file on their own behalf, Colorado law does not specify whether the parent or guardian of the minor will be notified about the PO.⁴

Definition of Abuse

A judge may issue a PO if the respondent has physically abused, threatened to physically abuse, or stalked the petitioner.⁵ The statute fails to explicitly recognize harassment or sexual abuse as qualifications for relief.** The statute may recognize other forms of abuse not specifically listed here.

Relief Available

The court may order⁶ the respondent to:

- stay away from the petitioner; and/or
- any other relief within the court's discretion.

The statute may allow other forms of relief not specifically listed here. The Protection Order is modifiable***.⁷

* Colorado Rules of County Court Procedure say that a minor's representative may sue or defend on behalf of the minor.

** Sexual abuse is implicitly covered under physical abuse. See COLO. REV. STAT. § 13-14-102(1.5)(a).

*** A permanent protection order cannot be dismissed if the abuser has been convicted of misdemeanor or felony domestic violence. See COLO. REV. STAT. § 13-14-102(17.5)(b)(I)(A).

Minors' Access to Sensitive Services^{8,9}

All minors can consent to:

- Contraceptive services
- HIV/STI testing and treatment*
- Prenatal care
- Adoption
- Medical care for minor child(ren)

*A physician may inform parents of minor's decision to consent to HIV/AIDS services if the minor is under 16.⁹

State law requires parental notification for abortion services.

School Response to Dating Violence

Colorado law does not currently provide for a school response to dating violence.

Recommendations for Immediate Policy Change

In order to improve Colorado's response to teen dating violence, the following changes are recommended:

- Allow minors to petition for POs on their own behalf and explicitly describe the procedure for doing so.
- Explicitly list the types of relief available to petitioners in statute.
- Require schools to adopt policies and procedures to address dating violence.

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References

¹ COLO. REV. STAT. § 13-14-103(1)(c) (2009).

² *Id.* § 13-14-102(1.5).

³ *Id.* § 13-14-103(2).

⁴ *Id.* § 13-14-103(1)(c).

⁵ *Id.* §§ 13-14-101(2); 13-14-101(1.5)(d).

⁶ *Id.* § 13-14-101(2.4); § 13-14-101(5).

⁷ *Id.* § 13-14-101(2.4)(b).

⁸ Guttmacher Institute, An overview of minors' consent law, *State Policies in Brief*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2009, http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_OMCL.pdf, accessed December 1, 2009.

⁹ Guttmacher Institute, Minors' Access to STI Services, *State Policies in Brief*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2009, http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_MASS.pdf, accessed December 1, 2009.

Break the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End
Domestic Violence

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