

Are you a victim of teen dating violence?

The law can help you.

Threats and Physical Abuse

My boyfriend hit me and I'm too embarrassed to tell anyone.

You're not alone. Many teens have abusive experiences.

Stalking and Harassment

My boyfriend/girlfriend follows me wherever I go. What can I do?

If s/he is repeatedly following you, and causing you to fear for your safety, s/he can be charged with the crime of stalking.

My boyfriend/girlfriend calls me or texts me all day just to annoy me, threaten me, or scare me. What can I do?

If s/he is trying to harass, annoy or scare you over the phone (either talking or texting), s/he can be charged with the crime of harassment.

If this is happening to you, it's important to keep a record of how often it is happening. You can use your notes if you have to show the police how often you are being followed or harassed. Be sure to keep your notes in a safe place.

How can I protect myself?

The domestic violence organization in your area can help you make a safety plan. You can call Infoline at 211 for the phone number of the domestic violence agency closest to you, or call the offices listed on the back of this brochure.

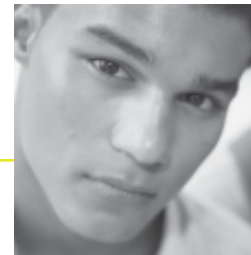
The law can also help you.

Read more to find out about your legal rights.

What will happen if I call the police and the person who is threatening or abusing me is arrested?

If the person who is threatening or abusing you is arrested, the judge in the criminal court can issue a "protective order." This orders the other person not to hit you, threaten you, or harass you. The judge can also order him not to contact you or your child, and not to enter your home or show up where you work. If this person does not follow the judge's order, he can be arrested and charged with another criminal charge.

Your protective order ends when the criminal case is closed. You should get in touch with the Victim's Advocate at the court to make sure your protective order is still in effect.



What if I never called the police and the person who is threatening or abusing me is not arrested?

If the person who is threatening or abusing you is not arrested, you can still get a court order that keeps him away from you. This is called a "restraining order." The judge can order him/her not to hurt or harass you, and/or to move out of your house or stay away from where you work.

How do I file for a restraining order?

To file for a restraining order, you must go to the Clerk's Office at the Superior Court (the back of this pamphlet tells you how to contact them). The clerk will tell you to fill out some forms and to write a description of what happened. Make sure you include details about any violence or any threat of violence.

What will happen after I file?

The court will schedule a hearing within 14 days. The judge might give you a restraining order as soon as you file, which will be in effect until the hearing; or, the judge may wait for the hearing to decide.



You have to go to the hearing if you want the judge to give you the order.

If the judge gives you the order at the hearing, it will be in place for six months. If you want to apply to have the restraining order longer than six months, you have to go to the Clerk's Office one month before the order expires.

What does it cost to get a restraining order?

It doesn't cost anything to file for a restraining order.

To get a restraining order, you must:

- be married or formerly married to the person who is threatening or hurting you, or
- be the child of the person who is threatening or hurting you, or
- be 18 or over, and be related by blood to the person who is threatening or hurting you, or
- be 16 or over, and live, or have lived with, the person who is threatening or hurting you, or
- have a child with the person who is threatening or hurting you, or
- be, or have recently been, in a dating relationship with the person who is threatening or hurting you.

Can I apply for a restraining order if I am under 18?

If you are a minor and you are filing because of a dating relationship, the court may require that your parent or another adult file for you. In some courts, if the judge thinks you are mature, s/he may let you file for yourself even if you are a minor.

If I am in a same-sex relationship, does the law protect me?

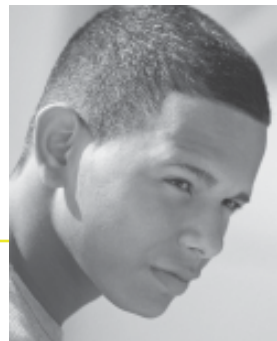
Yes, the law protects you in a same-sex relationship.

What should I do if the other person ignores the restraining order?

Call the police. If the other person enters a building or other property in violation of the restraining order, he will be charged with a crime. Show the police a copy of the restraining order. You can also go back to the court, tell the judge he violated the restraining order, and ask the judge to find the person "in contempt." If the court finds that the other person violated the court order, he can be fined or go to jail.

Can the restraining order or protective order be enforced at my school?

If you have a restraining order or protective order, it must be obeyed, even at your school. You should give the principal at your school a copy of the order. If it is violated, call the police right away, or ask the school office to call the police. The school could expel the person for violating the order. Call the CCA Teen Legal Clinic phone number on the back of this pamphlet if you have questions.



Are you in a relationship with someone who tries to control you, stalks you, threatens you, or physically hurts you?

Is someone trying to keep you in the house or control who your friends are?

Does s/he send you threatening text messages or harass you and scare you?

Does he call you stupid or ugly, pull your hair, or slap you around?

Tell someone now.

**Silence, as well as violence, kills.
You have the right to be safe.**

Where can I get help?

Agencies that can help you

**Connecticut Domestic Violence Hotline: 888-774-2900
Connecticut Sexual Assault Hotline: 888-999-5545**

If you have a question

If you need information about teen dating violence and your legal rights, or how to get a restraining order:
CCA Teen Legal Clinic: 860-570-5327

To get a restraining order

Go to the Clerk's Office at the Superior Court:

Bridgeport - Fairfield
1061 Main Street
203-579-6527

New Britain
20 Franklin Square
860-515-5180

Danbury
141 White Street
203-207-8749

New Haven
235 Church Street
203-503-6800

Hartford
90 Washington Street
860-706-5100

Stamford - Norwalk
123 Hoyt Street
203-965-5308

Middletown
1 Court Street
860-343-6400

Waterbury
300 Grand Street
860-591-3300

Center for Children's Advocacy

University of Connecticut School of Law
65 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105
860-570-5327 www.kidscounsel.org

Is Love supposed to hurt me?