

Can Teen Dating Violence Victims Get a Restraining Order in CT?

Connecticut law says the following people can get a Restraining Order (Application for Relief from Abuse):

Any **family or household member** who has been subjected to a **continuous threat** of present physical pain or physical injury **by another family or household member** or person in, or has recently been in, a **dating relationship** who has been subjected to a continuous threat of present physical pain or physical injury by the other person in such relationship. (Conn Statutes § 46b-15)

What About Teens?

In order to get a restraining order, teens must:

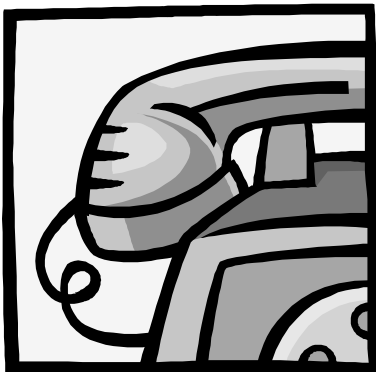
- Be married or formerly married to their abuser.
- Be the child of their abuser.
- Be 18 years & older who are related by blood or marriage to their abuser.
- Be 16 years & older who live, or have lived, together with their abuser.
- Have a child with their abuser.
- Be, or have recently been, in a dating relationship with their abuser.

(Conn Statutes § 46b-38a)

How Does this Work for Teens Under 18 Years Old?

- Encourage them to have a parent/guardian apply on their behalf.
- If they can't ask their parent/guardian to apply, have them bring a trusted adult to apply on their behalf as a "next friend".
- If they don't have a trusted adult, and they are over 16 years old, the clerk's office will likely let the youth file on his/her own.
- If they are under 16 years old, the clerk's office will consult with a judge to determine if the youth can apply on his/her own.

Who Can Help Teens with this Process?



Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic

Attorney Stacey Violante Cote

(860)695-1339 at HPHS, or (860)570-5327

OR

Medical Legal Partnership Project

Attorney Gladys Nieves

(860) 545-8581