



Protections in Colorado Law for Victims of Domestic Abuse Effective July 1, 2010

Victims of Domestic Abuse Filing for Civil Protection Orders Can Also Seek Protections For and Possession/Care of Animals [C.R.S. 13-14-101, 103, & 105]

Existing law:

Allows victims of domestic abuse to file a petition for a Temporary Civil Protection Order (or request an Emergency Protection Order through law enforcement outside of court hours) when any act or threatened act of violence is committed against them by an intimate partner or certain other persons (see Colorado Revised Statutes 13-14-101(2)) or against the minor children of either of the parties.

Changes to the law:

Domestic abuse victims may ask the court to protect and include orders for possession/care of animals through civil protection orders (C.R.S. 13-14-105(1)(g) & (h) & C.R.S. 13-14-103(1)(b)(V) & (VI)). By checking box **7f** on the Verified Complaint for Civil Protection Order (jdf 402), victims have the ability to:

- Request that the court order the restrained person to not threaten, molest, injure, kill, take, transfer, encumber, conceal, or dispose of an animal owned by or in the possession of the protected person, minor children, or any other protected persons.
- Request specific arrangements for possession and care of animals.

Supplementary Information:

This law is not however, meant to protect animals as protected persons, only as protected property. *This means that victims of domestic abuse must seek a Civil Protection Order for their own safety and protection and/or that of their children in order to request orders regarding their animals.*

In addition, elder abuse victims and at-risk adults who are abused may now ask the court to order protections for and arrangements for possession/care of their animals.

Protection order violations of provisions concerning animals are criminal violations under C.R.S. 18-6-803.5(1)(a). Protected parties also have the option of initiating civil contempt proceedings through the court.

For questions about the information provided in this document contact:

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Statutes, forms, and instructions are available at www.courts.state.co.us.