

USING OUT OF STATE ORDERS OF PROTECTION IN TENNESSEE



OUR ATTORNEYS HELP SOLVE CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS AT NO COST FOR STRUGGLING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

BECAUSE NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO FACE A LEGAL PROBLEM ALONE.



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ME!**

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KEEP A COPY OF YOUR ORDER OF PROTECTION WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES

Your Order of Protection from another state is good in Tennessee IF everything on this list is true:

- A judge signed the Order of Protection.
- The judge had legal power (jurisdiction) over the people and the case.
- You had a court hearing OR the court has set a date for a hearing so the abuser can tell his or her side of the story.

Police must treat Orders of Protection the same no matter what state they are from. The punishment for violating an Order of Protection is the same in Tennessee no matter where the order is from.

HOW DO I GET AN ORDER OF PROTECTION FROM ANOTHER STATE ENFORCED IN TENNESSEE?

There are two ways:

1. Call any police officer or sheriff if your abuser disobeys the Order. When the police get there, show them a copy of your Order. The officer is supposed to follow the Order just as if it came from Tennessee.

OR

2. Register your out-of-state Order with the county court clerk's office where you live.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY OUT-OF-STATE ORDER OF PROTECTION?

Take your certified copy of the Order to the office of the county court clerk where you believe enforcement may be necessary. Tell them that you want to register it in Tennessee.

A certified copy of the Order is signed or initialed by the clerk of the court that gave you the Order. It usually has some kind of court stamp.

If your copy is NOT a certified copy, you may contact the Clerk's office where the Order was issued and get the Clerk to mail you a copy or fax a certified copy to the Clerk's officer where you are filing it.

IMPORTANT!

You can still get your Order of Protection enforced even if it is NOT registered in the computer. But you have to show a copy of your Order to the police.

WHAT IF THE OUT-OF-STATE COURT TELLS TENNESSEE THAT MY ORDER HAS BEEN CHANGED OR IS NO GOOD?

If this happens, the court in Tennessee will tell you. If your Order is changed and no one in the other state told you, you will have to go back to the other state to do something about it. You may need a lawyer or a domestic violence advocate to help you. If your Order has ended, Tennessee police cannot follow it.

WHAT IF MY OUT-OF-STATE ORDER IS EX PARTE (TEMPORARY)?

You can register in Tennessee and the police will follow it. If the abuser was given a copy by the court or sheriff, Tennessee police can enforce it until the Order ends.

If the abuser was not given a copy of the Order and comes here, show Tennessee police your Order. They can give the abuser a copy. If your abuser does not obey it after he or she has a copy of it, the police can make an arrest.

An ex parte (temporary) Order only lasts until the hearing. If you need it to continue after the hearing date, you will need to go to a hearing in the state where you got the Order. A lawyer or domestic violence advocate may be able to help you get the hearing set on a day you can be there.

OR

You may be able to get an Order of Protection from Tennessee instead. A Tennessee court clerk or domestic violence advocate can tell you if you can do this.

WARNING!

If you ask for a Tennessee Order, the court must tell your abuser that you are here. Your abuser would have a chance to come to the court hearing. You need to decide if this is safe for you.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Court Clerk

In the State where you got the Order _____

In Tennessee _____

Domestic Violence Program/Hot Line

In the State where you got the Order _____

In Tennessee State _____

Police

In the State where you got the Order _____

In Tennessee _____

Local Police

In the State where you got the Order _____

In Tennessee _____

Your Lawyer

In the State where you got the Order _____

In Tennessee _____

National Domestic Violence 24 hour
HOT LINE
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
1-800-787-3224 (TDD/TTY)

LAET'S OFFICES ARE OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM

GENERAL OFFICES

Providing civil legal assistance to East Tennessee residents

CHATTANOOGA

(423) 756-4013
(800) 572-7457

JOHNSON CITY

(423) 928-8311
(800) 821-1312

CLEVELAND

(423) 303-2266
(800) 572-7457

KNOXVILLE

(865) 637-0484

MORRISTOWN

(423) 587-4850
(800) 821-1309

MARYVILLE

(865) 981-1818

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

Providing legal help for those in abusive, violent, and trafficking situations

BRANCH HOUSE - THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF SULLIVAN COUNTY

(423) 574-7233

JOHNSON CITY / WASHINGTON COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

(423) 722-3720

CHATTANOOGA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

(423) 643-7604

KNOXVILLE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

(865) 215-6830

Linea Gratis en Español 1 (866) 408-6573

No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

This pamphlet is intended for general information only. The circumstances of every case are different and need to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. This is not a substitute for the advice of a lawyer. Also, the law may change and may be different from county to county.

