

USING YOUR TENNESSEE ORDER OF PROTECTION IN ANOTHER STATE



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

Your Tennessee Order of Protection is good in other states 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.

All states must follow a Tennessee Order of Protection the same way they would follow one from their state. They must use the same punishments for violating a Tennessee Order of Protection that they use when someone violates an order from their state.

HOW DO I ENFORCE MY TENNESSEE ORDER OF PROTECTION WHEN I AM IN ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTY?

Different states have different rules. It is important to know the rules where you will be living or visiting. Some states require you to “register” or file your order. This lets the court and police know about the order.

Find out the other state’s rules before you try to enforce your order there. Some states tell your abuser if you register your order there. If you know this, you can decide what is best for you.

WILL I NEED HELP TO GET MY ORDER ENFORCED IN ANOTHER STATE?

You may. In some places, it is hard to enforce an order without help. A lawyer or a domestic violence advocate may be able to help.

WHAT THINGS WILL I NEED TO GET MY ORDER ENFORCED IN ANOTHER STATE?

1. A certified copy of your order. A certified copy is one that is signed or initialed by the clerk of the court that gave you the order. Usually, it has some kind of court stamp. If your copy is not certified, ask the court that gave you the order for a certified copy. You can get help with this if you ask the county court clerk, a domestic violence advocate, or a lawyer.
2. The phone number of the court clerk where you got your order.
3. The number of the nearest domestic violence program in the new state.
4. The registration number for your order. Tennessee orders have a National Crime Information Center or NCIC number. Some states will want to know what it is.
5. Be sure you take the phone number of the local Tennessee police or sheriff who has your order on file. If the state where you are going needs the NCIC number for your order, they can get it from the Tennessee police or sheriff who has it on file.

WHAT IF MY TENNESSEE ORDER IS EX PARTE (ONLY GOOD FOR 15 DAYS)?

Another state will follow it IF:

- Your abuser has been served with the order, and
- A court hearing will be held in Tennessee before your ex parte order ends.

WHAT IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE ON THE DATE OF THE HEARING?

If you do not go to the hearing, your ex parte order will end after 15 days. If you need protection longer than 15 days, you must go to the hearing. Another state cannot change your ex parte Tennessee order.

A lawyer or a domestic violence advocate may be able to help you change the date of the hearing so you can be there. After a hearing, the Tennessee court can give you an order that lasts a year.

ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS WITH GETTING MY TENNESSEE ORDER ENFORCED IN ANOTHER STATE?

Here are some problems that might come up in another state:

1. The rules in some states can put you in danger. For example, some states tell your abuser if you register your Order of Protection there.
2. The law that says states must enforce Orders of Protection from other states is called the Violence Against Women Act. Judges, clerks, and police officers in some states may not know this law as well as they should. You may need an advocate or a lawyer to help you.

If your order gives you custody and you think that your abuser may try to take the children, contact a lawyer or advocate right away. They can make sure that the child custody part of your Order is written to follow the other laws about child custody.

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 _____

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.

