

# Using Your Tennessee Order of Protection in Another State



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 punish someone who breaks an order from their state. They must punish someone who breaks a Tennessee order the same way.



## How do I enforce my Tennessee order of protection when I am in another state?

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.

## How can I find out what the rules are in another state?

1. Call a Tennessee domestic violence program. Ask them to help you find out what the rules are in the other state.
2. **OR** call a domestic violence program in the other state. (You can get their phone numbers by calling the National Domestic Violence Hot Line at 1-800-799-7233. This is a free call. Call 1-800-787-3224 for TDD/TTY.) When you call the domestic violence program in the other state, ask them what the rules are in their state. Ask if they will help you get your order enforced there.
3. **OR** call the court clerk, the local prosecutor, or the United States Attorney in your area. They may be able to help.



## 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 NIC number. Some states will want to know what it is. If you know the NIC number for your order, take it with you. You might be able to get the NIC number from the local police or sheriff that has your order on file.
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 NIC 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 only good for 15 days (ex parte)?

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 for 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.
3. The Violence Against Women Act is not clear about what other states can do about the child custody parts of an Order of Protection.

Does your order give you custody? Do you think your abuser may try to take the children? Then 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. These laws are the Parental Kidnapping Act and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act.



# Important Phone Numbers

## **Court Clerk**

In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_

In the State where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

## **Domestic Violence Program/Hot Line**

In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_

In the State where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

## **State Police**

In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_

In the State where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

## **Local Police**

In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_

In the State where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

## **Your Lawyer**

In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_

In the State where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

**National Crime Information Center or NIC number  
of my order of protection is**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**NOTE:** This pamphlet is not meant to take the place of legal advice. All cases are different and need individual attention.



**Legal Aid Society**  
of Middle Tennessee & the Cumberland Mountains

Working Together. Doing Justice. Restoring Hope.

**1-800-238-1443**

It's a free call.

On the internet at **[www.las.org](http://www.las.org)**

Legal Aid does not allow anyone to be treated unfairly because of what nation they are from, what sex they are, what age they are, what race they are or because they have a disability.

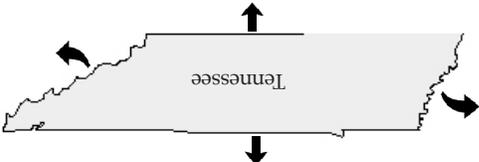
This project is funded under an agreement with the Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Programs.

Cut on dotted lines. Fold on straight line.  
Then fold 2 more times so it fits in your wallet.

Legal Aid does not allow anyone to be treated unfairly because of what nation they are from, what sex they are, what age they are, what race they are or because they have a disability. This project is funded under an agreement with the Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Programs.

It's a free call.  
**1-800-008-1443**

Working Together Doing Justice, Restoring Hope.  
of Middle Tennessee & the Cumberland  
**Legal Aid Society**



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**IMPORTANT Phone Numbers**

**Court Clerk**  
In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_  
Where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

**Domestic Violence Program/Hot Line**  
In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_  
Where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

**State Police**  
In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_  
Where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Police**  
In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_  
Where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Lawyer**  
In Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_  
Where you are going \_\_\_\_\_

**National Crime Information Center (NIC)  
number of my order of protection is:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**National Domestic Violence  
24 hour Hot Line  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)  
1-800-787-3224 (TDD/TTY)**

**Keep a copy of your Order of Protection with you at all times.**

**Your 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 hearing **Or** the judge has set a hearing date so the abuser can tell his or her side of the story.

**All states must enforce Tennessee orders of protection.** Different states have different rules about how they will do it. Find out the other state's rules before you try to enforce your order there. A state may require you to "register" or file your order. This lets the court and police know about the order.



**WARNING! Some states tell your abuser if you register your order there.** You can decide if this is safe for you. You may or may not want to register your order in that state.

To enforce your order in most states, you will need a certified copy of your order. A certified copy is an order that has been signed or initialed by the court clerk.

If your copy is not certified, contact the court that gave you the order. Ask for a certified copy. If you need help ask the county court clerk, a domestic violence advocate, or a lawyer.

**What if my Tennessee Order of Protection is *ex parte* (good for only 15 days)?**

- You can have an *ex parte* order enforced by other states IF:
- Your abuser has been served with the order, and
  - A court hearing will be held in Tennessee before your *ex parte* order ends.

If you do not go to the hearing, the order will end. Another state cannot change a Tennessee order. What if you cannot be at the hearing on the date that is set? You can ask for a different hearing date. A lawyer or domestic violence advocate can help you do this.

In some states, it is hard to get a Tennessee order enforced. A lawyer or a domestic violence advocate may be able to help. You can get the phone number of the domestic violence program in any state by calling the National Domestic Violence Hot Line at **1-800-799-7233**. This is a free call.