



## Using Out of State Orders of Protection in Tennessee

## Important Phone Numbers

### Court Clerk

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**Domestic Violence Program/Hot Line  
In the state where you got the order**

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### State Police

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### Local Police

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### Your Lawyer

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National Domestic Violence 24 hour HOT LINE  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)  
1-800-787-3224 (TDD/TTY)  
On the internet at:  
[www.thehotline.org/about-us/contact/](http://www.thehotline.org/about-us/contact/)



**Legal Aid Society**  
of Middle Tennessee & the Cumberlandands

[las.org](http://las.org)

615-244-6610

3121 Murfreesboro Pike, STE.400  
Nashville, TN 37217

In partnership with



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## What if I cannot be there for my hearing?

Although your ex-parte order will stay in place until a hearing is held, if you do not go to the hearing, your ex-parte order will end. 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.

## What 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. The county court, clerk, a domestic violence advocate, or a lawyer should be able to help.

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. 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 who has it on file.

## Keep a copy of your Order of Protection with you.

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.

All states must follow a Tennessee Order of Protection the same way they would follow one from their state. If they punish someone for breaking a protective order in their state, they must punish someone for breaking the Tennessee Order in their state

## 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. Some states tell your abuser if you register your order there. If you know this, you can decide what is best for you.

## What if I only have a Temporary or Ex Parte Order?

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 order ends.



## 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 Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE** (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 District Attorney’s office in your area. They may be able to help.

## Are there any problems with getting my Tennessee Order enforced in another state?

1. The rules in some states can be very different. For example, some states tell your abuser if you register your Order of Protection there. A lawyer or domestic violence advocate in the other state can help you determine that state’s rules.
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.
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 right away. They can make sure the child custody part of your Order follows the Parental Kidnapping Act and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement.

