

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

An **ex parte (temporary)** order only lasts until a hearing before a judge in the state where you got the order.

Need help setting a hearing date you can go to? A lawyer or domestic violence advocate may be able to help you.

You also may be able to get an Order of Protection from Tennessee instead.

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 Telephone 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 _____

Who We Are

Legal Aid Society is Tennessee's largest non-profit law firm. Our mission is to enforce, advance, and defend the legal rights of low income and vulnerable people to obtain the basic necessities of life.

Contact Us

We have eight offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge, and Tullahoma.

**To find a shelter or get help, call
Nationwide Hotline
1-800-799-7233
or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)**

**Call 1-800-238-1443
for free assistance**

In partnership with

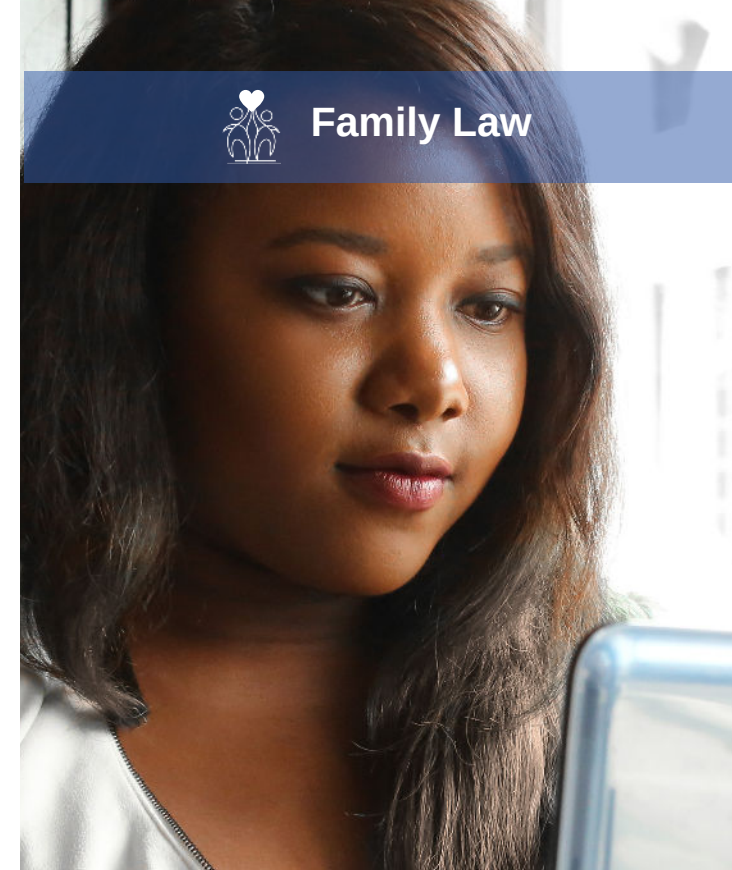


The information provided in this booklet does not and is not intended to constitute legal advice. If you have a legal problem, please call a private attorney or call your local Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands office at 1-800-238-1443.

revised 7/18/22



Family Law



How to Use An Out Of State Order of Protection In Tennessee



LEGAL AID SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

Always keep a copy of your Order of Protection with you.



Police must treat a valid out-of-state Order of Protection the same as an Order of Protection issued in Tennessee.

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

- A judge signed the Order of Protection.
- The judge had jurisdiction (legal power) over the people and case.
- The Order of Protection was granted by the judge after a hearing, or if the Order was a temporary or emergency order and the abuser was given a copy of the order.

Do I need to register my out of state Order of Protection in Tennessee for it to be enforced?

No. If your abuser violates the order:



- Call the police.
- Show the police a copy of your Order of Protection.

The officer is supposed to follow the Order just as if it came from Tennessee, even if you have not registered it in Tennessee yet.



How do I register my out-of-state Order of Protection?

You do not have to register your out of state order for it to be enforced, but it is a good idea to register it in Tennessee.

To register your order:

- Take a certified copy to the court clerk in any county where you think it might need to be enforced.
- Tell them that you want to register it in Tennessee.

Important: You will not be charged a fee for registering your out-of-state Order of Protection.

Will the Court tell my abuser I registered my Order of Protection in Tennessee?

No. The court will **NOT** notify the abuser when you register the order and will not let them know where you are.

How do know if my Order of Protection is certified?

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

What should I do if I do not have a certified copy of my Order?

Contact the clerk of the court where it was originally issued to find out how to get one.

What happens after I register my Order of Protection?

Step 1: The court will send it to local law enforcement.

Step 2: The local law enforcement will also send it to the national crime information center.

Important: Your Order of Protection will stay in place until it says it will expire. If the order does not say when it ends, it will stay in place for one (1) year from the date you registered it with the Tennessee courts.

What if the out-of-state court tells Tennessee that my order has been changed or is no good?

The court in Tennessee will tell you. **If your order was 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.

Important: If your order has ended, Tennessee police cannot enforce it.