

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT ORDERS  
OF PROTECTION,  
CONTACT YOUR  
LOCAL DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SHELTER  
OR RAPE CRISIS  
CENTER.

—  
SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO SEE THE  
LIST OF TENNESSEE  
PROGRAMS.



# ORDER OF PROTECTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS



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[tncoalition.org](http://tncoalition.org) | [preventn.com](http://preventn.com)

This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-MU-AX-0021 awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and recommendations expressed in this publication are solely the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the state, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, and the State of Tennessee, Office of Criminal Justice Programs.

## WHO CAN GET AN ORDER OF PROTECTION?

A victim of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.



## HOW CAN AN ORDER OF PROTECTION HELP ME?

The judge can order the person who is hurting or threatening you to stay away from you and your minor children protected under the order for up to a year.

The judge can also order the person hurting you not to telephone, contact, or communicate with you in any way directly or through another person.

Other help available through an order of protection may include giving you custody of your children; ordering the person hurting you to give you money to help support you and/or your children; and giving you possession of a shared residence.

## HOW CAN I GET AN ORDER OF PROTECTION?

You must file a petition with the court clerk.

The court clerk must provide you with forms and assistance in filling out the order.

The court clerk may not charge you any filing fees.  
You do not need an attorney to file the petition.



## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU FILE THE PETITION?

The order will be served on the respondent.

A hearing on the petition will be set.

At the time you file the order of protection, you can also ask for a temporary order to protect you before the court hearing.

## WHAT IF THE PERSON HURTING OR THREATENING YOU DOES THINGS THE ORDER OF PROTECTION SAYS THEY SHOULD NOT DO?

When the person hurting or threatening you does things that the order of protection says not to do, this is called a violation.

A violation is against the law, and the person could be arrested and spend time in jail.

You should call the police if the person violates the order of protection.

