

I have filed for an Order of Protection.

Now what?



The **PETITIONER** is you.



The **RESPONDENT** is the person you filed the OP against.

If your OP number has an "**OP**" in it, your order was filed in **General Sessions court** (example: 20OP1234).

If your OP number has an "**X**" in it, your order was filed in **Circuit court** (example: 20X1234).

*If you were granted a temporary OP, the Respondent should have **no direct or indirect contact** with you anymore. **Always keep a signed copy of your OP with you.***

What happens next?

- The Sheriff's Office (DCSO) will attempt to notify the Respondent that an OP has been filed against them. Your OP will not be in effect until the Respondent has been given "notice" or is "served" with the OP.
- "Notice" means the Respondent has been reached by phone and given "notice" of the OP. There is no court date set yet if someone has only been given notice, but you can still file charges if your OP is violated.
- "Service" means the Respondent has been served with a physical copy of the OP from DCSO. This depends on DCSO having good contact information for the Respondent. If you have new or better contact information for the Respondent after you file your OP, (such as a new phone number, a new workplace, a new address, etc.), call DCSO at 615-880-3793 to give them this updated information.
- After the OP has been served, you will be given a court date for the OP hearing. DCSO will contact you by phone to give you the date and time of the hearing. If they cannot reach you by phone, they will send a letter to the address you provided on your OP petition.

How to Stay Safe and Report Violations

- **Call 911** if you are in immediate danger, such as if the Respondent comes anywhere near you.
- **Call the non-emergency number at 615-862-8600** to report any other contact or violations.
- **Save any evidence** of the violation or contact (text messages, voicemails, pictures, social media posts, etc.).
- **Make a safety plan** with the Office of Family Safety (contact information on reverse).
- **Sign up for Smart911** to let 911 dispatch know you have an OP at www.smart911.com.
- **Give copies of your OP** to all important people or places such as your job, school/daycare, family, neighbors, etc.



Court Information

Your court date should be **within approximately 15 days** of the Respondent being served with the OP.

If your OP is set in **General Sessions court**, your hearing will be in the **Davidson County Criminal Courthouse** (the Justice A.A. Birch Building). You must be in **courtroom 4B by 9:15 am** on the day of court.



408 2nd Ave. N.
Nashville, TN 37201
Clerk's office: 615-862-5195

If your OP is set in **Circuit court**, your hearing will be in the **Davidson County Courthouse** (the Historic Courthouse on Public Square). You must be there by **8:45 am** on the day of court.



1 Public Square
Nashville, TN 37201
Clerk's office: 615-862-5181

Before the day of court, contact the **Jean Crowe Advocacy Center** (information below) to speak to an advocate, talk about your safety, and answer any questions you might have about court.

*It is very important for you to **come to court for your OP to be granted**.
If you cannot make it to your hearing, contact the Clerk's Office numbers above to let someone know.*

Where to Get Help

Metro Nashville's **Office of Family Safety** has two locations to call or visit for help with domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking, or human trafficking.



Family Safety Center (FSC)

walk-ins and appointments

610 Murfreesboro Pike
Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
OP assistance available 24/7
615-880-1100



Jean Crowe Advocacy Center (JCAC)

inside the courthouse

100 James Robertson Pkwy., Suite 114
Monday - Friday, 7:45 am - 4:30 pm
615-862-4767

Advocates at either of these locations can help you safety plan, assess your level of danger, connect you to resources, help you learn about interpersonal violence, and help you through the reporting or court process.

Other agencies that can help you during this time include:

- **MNPD Domestic Violence Division:** 615-880-3000
- **MNPD Sex Crimes Unit:** 615-862-7560
- **District Attorney's Office:** 615-862-5500
- **Legal Aid Society:** 615-244-6610
- **YWCA** 24/7 domestic violence hotline: 1-800-334-4628 text line: 615-983-5170
- **Morning Star** domestic violence center: 615-860-0003
- **Family and Children's Services** crisis line: 615-244-7444