

# ORDERS OF PROTECTION FILING FEES

## Frequently Asked Questions

**DISCLAIMER:** This information is not legal advice. It is for informational purposes only. You should consult a lawyer for legal advice specific to your situation as each case is different.

**1. Will I be charged for filing an order of protection?**

There is no charge to file an order of protection. “No domestic abuse victim, stalking victim or sexual assault victim shall be required to bear the costs, including any court costs, filing fees, litigation taxes or any other costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, service, dismissal or nonsuit, appeal or enforcement of an ex parte order of protection, order of protection, or a petition for either such order, whether issued inside our outside the state.” (T.C.A. § 36-3-617)

**2. If I decide to drop the order of protection before the hearing, can the court order me to pay the court costs?**

No. There should be no fees or costs imposed on you because the judge has not had a hearing to determine whether you are a victim of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

**3. If I don't show up to court for the hearing on the order of protection, can the court order me to pay the costs?**

The court should not order you to pay the court costs if you do not show up to court because the judge has not had a hearing to determine whether you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**4. When can the judge order me to pay fees and costs?**

You may be charged fees and costs ONLY if a hearing is held and the evidence clearly supports a finding that you are not a victim of domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking and that you knew that the allegation of domestic abuse, stalking, or sexual assault was false at the time you filed the petition.

**5. When can the judge order my abuser to pay fees and costs?**

If the court, after the hearing, issues or extends an order of protection, all court costs, filing fees, litigation taxes and attorney fees shall be assessed against your abuser.

**6. Can I have another court review a decision made on my order of protection?**

Yes. When you have another court review a decision made on your order of protection, this is called an appeal. The court hearing the appeal may be different depending on where you live.

**7. Are there fees associated with the appeal?**

No. There are no upfront fees for this additional review of your case.