

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
2009 Domestic Violence Handbook

After You Get An Order Of Protection

Whether your order of protection is from Family, Criminal or Supreme Court, once the order is issued, the clerk should give you a *certified copy of it*. This is your official record of the court order. Family offense orders of protection are listed in a statewide registry that can be accessed by law enforcement personnel and the courts, and should be enforced whether or not you have the order of protection with you. However, it is best to keep the certified copy with you at all times. You can also make copies of the order to leave at your job or at your children's school or day care center, if the abuser is ordered to stay away from these places, or if you have been awarded custody. You should also give a copy of the order of protection to your local police department and to the police department in communities where you work or regularly visit. It's a good idea to make a copy of the order and any other documents you might need and keep them in a safe place. If you lose your copy or your abuser destroys it, the court can give you another certified copy of your order of protection, either free or for a small fee.