

# Are You A Victim Of Domestic Violence? You May Be Able To Change Your Social Security Number

## Why would you need a new Social Security number?

Does the person who abused you know your Social Security number or your children's? They may be able to use them to find you even if you move to another town.



You can get new numbers so your abuser cannot use them to find you. Social Security does not always give out new numbers. But they will if you prove you are in danger.

## How do you apply for a new number?

Go in person to any Social Security office. They will help you fill out a paper saying why you need a new number. They will help fill out the form to get new numbers for you and your children.

## What do you need to take with you?

- Original papers that show your age, identity and U.S. citizenship (or lawful alien status). This can be a birth certificate or driver's license.
- Have you changed your name? Then you need to bring papers that show your old name and new name.
- Do you need new Social Security numbers for your children? Bring papers that show you have custody of the children.
- Bring papers that show you were abused.



## What if you don't have these papers?

The Social Security office will help you get the papers.

## What kind of papers can prove you were abused?

The best proof of abuse comes from a police officer or a doctor. They can give you papers that say how you were abused.

Are there other kinds of proof? Yes. You can use:

- orders of protection,
- restraining orders,
- letters from shelters,
- letters from friends,
- letters from counselors,
- letters from family members,
- letters from other people who know about the abuse.



## Protect your new Social Security number

Social Security does not give your number to other people. People get your number when **you** give it out. Be careful about giving your new number to anyone. This is important if you get a new number to escape your abuser.

## Do you have any questions?

Do you need more information? Call your local Social Security office or call **1-800-772-1213**. This is a free call. Do you use a TTY machine because of hearing or speech problems? Call the free TTY number at 1-800-325-0778. They are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can also find information on the Internet at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

This brochure was written by Rural Legal Services of Tennessee. It does not take the place of legal advice. Each case is different and needs individual attention. Updated April 2001

## Legal Aid/Legal Services Offices

### Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee

#### Nashville Office

211 Union Street, Suite 800  
Nashville, TN 37201  
(615) 244-6610

#### Clarksville Office

120 Franklin Street  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
(931) 552-6656

#### Gallatin Office

650 N. Water Avenue  
Gallatin, TN 37066  
(615) 451-1880

#### Murfreesboro Office

526 North Walnut Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
(615) 890-0905

### Legal Services of South Central Tennessee

#### Columbia Office

104 West 7th Street  
Columbia, TN 38402-1256  
(931) 381-5533

#### Tulahoma Office

123 North Atlantic Street  
PO Box 1293  
Tulahoma, TN 37388  
(931) 455-7000

### West Tennessee Legal Services

#### Jackson Office

210 West Main Street  
PO Box 2066  
Jackson, TN 38302-2066  
(901) 423-0616  
FAX (901) 423-2600

#### Dyersburg Office

208 South Church Street  
PO Box 366  
Dyersburg, TN 38024  
(901) 285-8181

#### Huntingdon Office

PO Box 287  
Huntingdon, TN 38344  
(901) 986-8975

### Memphis Area Legal Services

#### Memphis Office

109 North Main Street, 2nd Floor  
Memphis, TN 38103  
(901) 523-8822

#### Covington Office

899-A Highway 51 South  
Covington, TN 38019  
(901) 476-1808

#### Knoxville Legal Aid Society

502 South Gay Street, Suite 404  
Knoxville, TN 37902-1502  
(423) 637-0484

### Legal Services of Upper East Tennessee

#### Johnson City Office

311 West Walnut Street  
PO Drawer 360  
Johnson City, TN 37605-0360  
(423) 928-8311 or 1-800-321-5561

#### Kingsport Office

150 Cherokee Street  
Colonial Square  
Kingsport, TN 37660  
(423) 246-8734

#### Rural Legal Services

##### Oak Ridge Office

226 Broadway, Jackson Square  
PO Box 5209  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5209  
(865) 483-8454 FAX (865) 483-8905

#### Cookeville Office

PO Box 637  
Cookeville, TN 38503  
(931) 528-8783

### Southeast Tennessee Legal Services

#### Chattanooga Office

700 Chattanooga Bank Bldg.  
737 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
(423) 756-4013

#### Cleveland Office

85 Central Ave., NW  
Cleveland, TN 37311  
(423) 479-8577

#### Mike Murphy

##### Legal Assistance for Elderly

9111 Cross Park Drive, Suite D100  
Knoxville, TN 37923  
(865) 691-2551 1-800-522-0127

### Ageing Services for the Upper Cumberland

1225 S. Willow Ave.  
Cookeville, TN 38506-4194  
(931) 432-4210