

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Full Faith and Credit Provision of the Violence Against Women Act



October 2024

Leaving an abusive relationship is a process that requires strategic planning and comprehensive interventions. In some instances, victims have no choice but to flee their abusers and relocate across state, tribe, and territorial lines to establish lives free of violence. Protection orders can be a critical component of safety planning and the relocation process for victims, but only if properly enforced. The [full faith and credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#) enhances a victim's freedom of movement by requiring law enforcement and courts to enforce protection orders throughout states, tribes, and U.S. territories. For the past thirty years, the full faith and credit provision has provided important and often lifesaving protection for victims who cross state, tribal, and territorial lines, whether to go to work, visit relatives, or seek haven from abuse.

Please join the National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit (NCPOFFC) in celebrating 30 years since the enactment of the full faith and credit provision of the VAWA and our efforts to end domestic violence, promote inter-jurisdictional enforcement of protection orders, and assist victims to move freely across the country.

Below are a few of our full faith and credit resources for professionals. To view additional resources, please visit www.fullfaithandcredit.org, the [National Gender-Based Violence Learning Community](#) or select from the links located at the end of this eNewsletter.

FEATURED TRAININGS AND RESOURCES

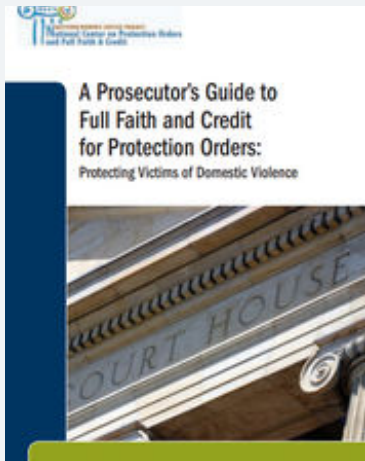
Full Faith and Credit 101: Webinar Reply

The full faith and credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requires valid protection orders issued by one jurisdiction to be recognized and enforced by all other jurisdictions. This applies to all 50 states, Indian tribal lands, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. This webinar replay provides an overview of the requirements of the full faith and credit provision. Participants will learn how protection order enforcement operates across state, tribal, and territorial boundaries through different scenarios. The webinar replay will also provide information on specific types of protection orders and situations that necessitate enforcement.

[Register here](#)

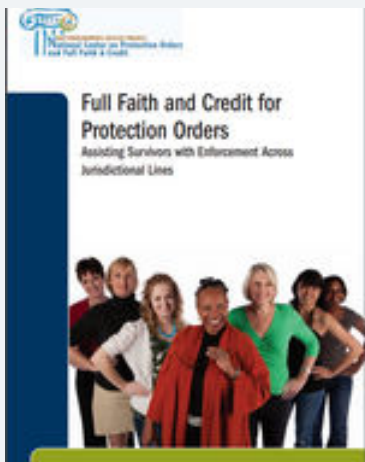
FULL FAITH AND CREDIT PUBLICATIONS

The publications are available for download from our website using the links below.



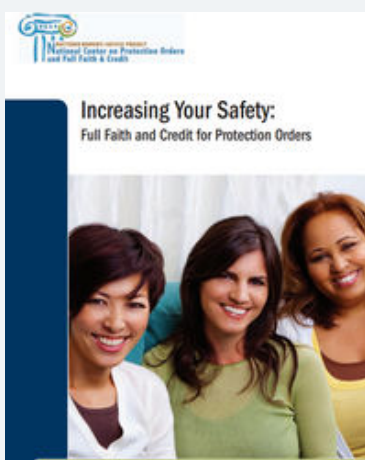
[A Prosecutor's Guide to Full Faith and Credit for Protection Orders: Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence](#)

Holding offenders accountable for violations of protection orders through vigorous enforcement by prosecutors can enhance victim safety. Readers of this guide will receive practical guidance on enforcement of protection orders issued by other jurisdictions including, charging decisions and issues to address at preliminary hearings, trial, and sentencing and how to effectively coordinate with courts, law enforcement, federal prosecutors, victim/witness specialist and advocates are provided. This edition also includes an expanded section on enforcement of tribal protection order violations in and out of Indian country.



[Full Faith and Credit for Protection Orders Assisting Survivors with Enforcement Across Jurisdictional Lines](#)

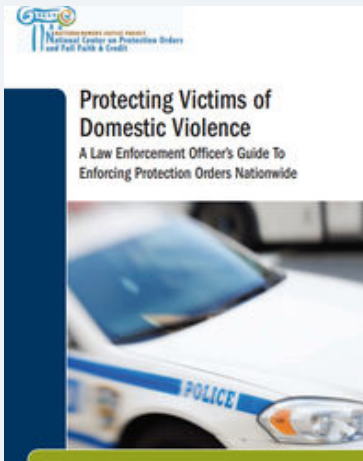
The full faith and credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act seeks to protect survivors with protection orders who work, travel, or seek refuge across jurisdictional lines from their abuser. It is therefore imperative for advocates to understand how to assist survivors in facilitating enforcement of these orders with courts, law enforcement and prosecutors. This guide provides advocates with information on responding to commonly asked questions about full faith and credit including what types of orders are enforced, how orders are enforced, and whether or not to register an order. It includes a section on considerations to discuss with survivors relocating to another jurisdiction as well as tips and resources for safety planning, risk assessment, and firearms removal.



[Increasing Your Safety: Full Faith and Credit for Protection Orders](#)

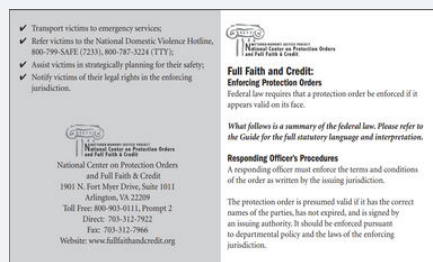
This guide is for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence that have or plan to seek a protection order and travel across state, territorial or tribal lines. It provides an overview of the full faith and credit provision and provides practical tips intended to assist the survivor implement enforcement of their order. Information on how to obtain help if they have problems with enforcement of their order is also provided.

[Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence A Law Enforcement Officer's Guide To Enforcing Protection Orders Nationwide](#)



Law enforcement officers play a crucial role in protecting victims with protection orders. The full faith and credit provision of the Violence Against Women Act requires law enforcement to enforce valid civil and criminal protection orders to protect victims whenever a violation of the order occurs. This guide is intended to provide guidance to law enforcement on the inter-jurisdictional enforcement of these orders. Frequently asked questions on enforcement actions and challenges are addressed including how to determine a valid protection order exists, how to conduct a facial validity assessment, how to determine what conditions of the order to enforce, and how to determine arrest authority.

[A pullout pocket guide on responding officer procedures is provided for quick reference.](#)



Note, there has been significant changes to tribal criminal jurisdiction since the FFC brochures were published for additional information please see:

[Indian Country Criminal Jurisdiction Chart](#) created by Arvo Q. Mikkanen, Assistant U.S. Attorney & Tribal Liaison, U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Oklahoma, (2022).

Also see, Public Law 83- 280 (commonly referred to as Public Law 280 or PL 280). The enactment of Public Law 280 in 1953 transferred legal authority from the federal government to state governments, changing the division of legal authority among tribal, federal, and state governments in some jurisdictions. Congress gave six states extensive criminal and civil jurisdiction over tribal lands, with other states permitted to acquire jurisdiction at their option. For further information, [see Public Law 280 Resources at Tribal Law and Policy Institute.](#)

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