ATTENTION!

This brochure is prepared to inform you about the Turkish justice system and your rights in general. The text has been simplified for facilitating comprehension and legal terms were avoided when possible. Thus, you may suffer loss of rights if you act based solely on the information herein. It would be useful to benefit from the help of a legal professional once you better know your rights.

Please read the whole brochure for acquiring accurate and complete information.

Joint Project on Strengthening the Court Management System





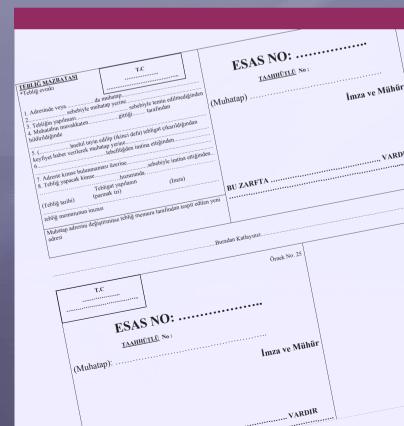




Implemented by the Council of Euro

This project is co-funded by the European Union, the Republic of Turkey and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe. The Central Finance and Contracts Unit is the Contracting Authority of this Project.

A Document Came From the Courthouse! (Notification)



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Every "document" which comes from the courts, public prosecution office or civil enforcement offices is sent to inform you about an official process. The document which is sent by these authorities is called "notification"

What should I do when a letter is sent by the courthouse?

When you read the letter carefully, you will see it contains all the necessary information. If you think that the information in the document is complicated or incomprehensible, you can ask advice from a lawyer. If you take the notification and go to the courthouse, the Information Desk staff will help you as well. Keep in mind that every document sent by the courthouse is sent for an official purpose and most probably, it is a time limited document.

What is the notification for?

The notification is sent in order to inform you on a judicial process. The State informs you when your testimony or help is needed concerning an issue which may be against or in favour of you and expects you to protect your own rights or tell about your information or experiences or submit your complaints. Do not forget that the notification may be about any subject. The notification may be sent for various reasons such as inviting you to the court as a witness, informing you that an enforcement (seizure) procedure has been initiated against you because of your unsettled debt or informing you on the date of a hearing and so on. The court or authority which sends the notification or its purpose is indicated on the document. Please read it carefully.

How can I understand who sent the notification?

The name of the sender is written on the top left corner of the notification. For instance, the 2nd Civil Enforcement Office of Manavgat or Civil Court of First Instance of Mardin. Furthermore, there is a number indicating the type of action. This number is called registration number.

What is registration number?

The courts give a separate number for each file in order to carry out the proceedings in an organised way. This number is called registration number and abbreviated as "E". There is a simple logic behind this number. The first part of the number shows the year in which the case is filed and the second part indicates the sequence number of that case among all the cases filed in the same year. It is indicated in this way: "E:2009/65" or "E:09/65". Since each court gives a separate number, the files are named with the name of the court. For instance, Assize Court of Rize E:08/103.

What should I do with the notification?

You must keep the notification. You will need the information on it.

I received the notification, what if I do not do anything?

There is a wide-spread misperception among the society that "judicial process does not start, if I don't do anything although I receive the notification". Whatever you do, do not make the mistake of doing nothing after you receive the notification. When the notification finds you, the judicial action starts. Keeping silent means you endanger your own rights. In civil courts, when you do not respond to the lawsuit against you, it is supposed that you deny all the claims. However, when you do not follow the case, it means that you waive many of your rights such as submitting evidence to the court and responding to the evidences presented by the other party. In case you do not do anything after receiving notifications such as "payment orders" from civil enforcement offices, it may result in various losses of rights. For further information, please see the brochure on "enforcement"

What happens if I do not take any action?

Keep in mind that the State does not let the things be delayed. Each action has its own duration. The moment you receive the notification, the duration of that certain action starts. You may lose your right to object, you may lose your rights, you may get into debt, you may be assumed that you accept the debt, even in some cases you may be taken by force by the police.

They left the notification to the neighbourhood governor, what if I do not receive it?

If you are not at home, an information paper is left to the door and the notification is left at the office of the neighbourhood governor. The day on which the notification is left to the neighbourhood governor shall be assumed as the date you receive it. Even if you do not receive it physically, the legal process starts. All undesirable circumstances which are mentioned above may happen to you.

They sent the notification to my previous address; I was not informed about it!

In case of a change of address, it is your responsibility to declare the new address to the relevant authority. If you do not declare your new address, the notification is sent to the address which is registered in the Civil Registry Office. Therefore, you should always submit your updated address to the Civil Registry Office.

Even if you have never resided in or moved from the address registered in the Civil Registry Office, the notification letter is given by signature either to the head of district - a member of the district council or municipal police commander - officers. Furthermore, the delivery address is written on the notification letter and this letter is taped on the door of the concerned address. The date on which the notification is taped to the door is regarded as the notification date.

In case you have no registered address in the Civil Registry Office, a copy of the notification is left to the door of the previous address and that date is regarded as the notification date. After this date, notifications made to your previous address are deemed to be made to the addressee.