



March 12, 2025

Other Methods of Enforcement

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: CTAS-2179

In addition to the authority granted to counties by the County Powers Act, counties may also file suit to abate nuisances pursuant to T.C.A. § 29-3-101 *et seq.* Under this set of statutes, petitions can be brought in the name of the state, upon relation of the attorney general and reporter, or any district attorney general, or any city or county attorney, or without the concurrence of any such officers, upon the relation of ten (10) or more citizens and freeholders of the county wherein such nuisances may exist. T.C.A. § 29-3-102.

The court is authorized to issue a temporary injunction during the proceedings and if the court finds that a nuisance exists at the conclusion of the case, the court will issue an order of abatement. T.C.A. §§ 29-3-105, 110. As part of the order of abatement, the court may assess costs of public services required to abate or manage the nuisance, including, but not limited to, law enforcement costs, if any, caused by the public nuisance. The governmental entity must submit evidence of such costs to the court in order to be reimbursed. T.C.A. § 29-3-110.

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