

Protection From Abuse (PFA) Program

If you are, or have been, in a relationship with someone who is physically abusive or threatening, you may qualify for a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order. The PFA is a legal order issued by the District Court or the Court of Common Pleas in Media to provide safety and protection from abuse. A PFA can prohibit abusive conduct, remove the abuser from your residence, and include other protections the court considers appropriate. If an existing PFA is violated, you may also be able to file an Indirect Criminal Contempt Complaint to address the violation.

PFA's are issued in three stages. An Emergency Order provides immediate protection when the court is closed, a Temporary Order offers protection until a full hearing can be scheduled, and a Permanent Order can last up to 36 months following a hearing in the Court of Common Pleas. Obtaining a PFA requires completing a petition, meeting with a judge, and attending the scheduled hearings, so applicants should plan to be available for several hours during the process.

Contacts for Assistance

For guidance and legal support throughout the PFA process, you can contact the following:

Domestic Abuse Project –

Offers information, petition assistance, and free legal representation in most cases.

Phone: (610) 565-4590 (24/7 hotline)

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday

Same-day assistance is available if you arrive before 10:30 AM.

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania –

Provides free representation for Permanent PFA hearings.

Phone: (610) 874-8421

Delaware County District Attorney's Office –

Contact for violations of a PFA or to file an Indirect Criminal Contempt Complaint.

Phone: (610) 891-4811

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Local Police –

Call immediately if a PFA is violated to report the incident and ensure immediate safety.