

Protection From Abuse Orders (PFA Orders)

Protection Orders

There are three kinds of civil protection orders available in Pennsylvania:

The standard PFA is for domestic and familial relationships;

The Sexual Violence PFA is for sexual assault victims who do not otherwise qualify for a PFA;

And the Intimidation PFA is for minors who are being stalked or harassed by adults.

How to File a PFA

There are several ways to file for a civil protection order.

You can go to the Law Library in the Crawford County Judicial Center, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, excluding holidays. Court staff or an advocate from Women's Services, Inc. will assist you with filing your protection order.

If you need a protection order when the Judicial Center is closed, you should contact your local police department or Women's Services, Inc. and ask about Emergency Protection Orders.

PFA Violations

If you have a Protection Order and the defendant violates it, you should contact the police. You may also go to the Law Library in the Judicial Center and file either a "Petition for Indirect Criminal Contempt" or a "Petition for Civil Contempt" to report the violation to the Court.

How can a PFA Order protect me?

A protection from abuse order can:

- Order the abuser not to abuse, harass, or stalk you, your relatives or your minor children
- Order the abuser to be removed from the home where you both live and grant you possession of the home. *NOTE: Under certain circumstances, if you are living in a home of which the abuser is the only owner or tenant, the judge can still remove the abuser from the home or, with your consent, order him to provide you with suitable alternate housing.
- Award temporary custody or temporary visitation rights of your minor children
- Order the abuser to pay financial support (including medical bills, health insurance, rent or mortgage payments) to you or your children
- Prohibit the abuser from having any contact with you or minor children, including staying away from your or your child's place of employment or business or school
- Order the abuser to turn any of his firearms, other weapons, and ammunition to the sheriff or police, if he used or threatened to use them during the abuse, and prohibit him from getting additional firearms
- Order the abuser to pay you for reasonable losses resulting from the abuse (this may include the cost of medical/dental care, relocation and moving expenses, attorney and counseling costs, as well as loss of earnings or support)
- Grant any other appropriate relief you request

For more information regarding protection orders, please call the Law Library at (814) 333-7300 or visit Women's Services Inc. (<https://www.womensservicesinc.com/i-need-help/protection-from-abuse-pfa/>)



Offices in Meadville and Titusville

Meadville (814) 724-4637

Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

Titusville: (814) 775-0445

Monday-Thursday 10:00 am to 4:00pm

Fri-Sun by appt. only

Telephone Hotlines: (814) 333-9766 | 888-881-0189

<https://www.womensservicesinc.com/>

Crawford County Law Library

Crawford County Judicial Center

359 East Center Street

Meadville, PA 16335

Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

(814) 333-7300

www.crawfordcountypa.net

Local Rules of Civil Procedure Regarding PFAs

County Local Rule L 1901.3

<https://www.crawfordcountypa.net/courts/Rules/Civil/RULE%20L1901.PDF#search=protection%20from%20abuse>