

I. WHAT IS A PFA?

PFA stands for protection from abuse order. It is a court order that may restrict you from certain places, which can include your home, and from having contact with protected people, which might include your children. The PFA order will specify any and all restrictions and conditions. It is not a criminal conviction. It simply limits your conduct.

IS A PFA PERMANENT?

No. A PFA hearing will be scheduled within a few days. You will have an opportunity then to state your case to a judge. After the hearing, the judge will either grant another PFA for a longer term, modify the order to allow limited or indirect contact, or dismiss it entirely.

WHEN/WHERE IS THE HEARING?

You will be given notice on the temporary PFA order of when the hearing will take place, at the Lancaster County Courthouse.

II. WHEN SERVED WITH A PFA:

What to DO:

- Read it carefully, and follow it.
- Contact an attorney if you have questions, or feel it necessary.
- Attend the hearing.
- Contact a Domestic Abuse Intervention Program, if desired. (This is not required.)

What NOT to do:

- Do NOT go home, if evicted.
- Do NOT contact the protected person(s).
- Do NOT go to that person's home, work, or school.



50 North Duke Street
Lancaster, Pa. 17602

Where can I go if evicted?

- Contact family or friends for a place to stay.
- Go to a motel.
- Go to a shelter (listed on back).
- Call your clergy.

How do I get my things?

- Call an attorney.
- Wait for the hearing, where arrangements can be made.
- Do NOT attempt to recover them on your own.

What if we have children or share a business/property?

That will be considered by a judge at the hearing. At the end of the hearing, the judge could permit limited or indirect contact for these purposes. That's why it's essential you attend the hearing: to say your part and address such concerns.

What "No Contact" Means

If stated in the order, it means you shall not contact the protected person in any way, to include in person, via phone, email, writing, social media, or through a 3rd party - even a family member. If you contact a protected person, you can be arrested and jailed. If you encounter the protected person by chance, immediately get away from that person.