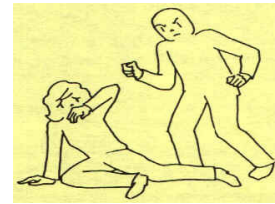




## PFA Orders in Pennsylvania

In cases of domestic violence, a family member can go to a county judge to ask for an immediate temporary Protection from Abuse order. This temporary PFA is designed to provide legal protection until a full PFA hearing is convened - usually 7 to 10 days later. At **The Law Office of Jason A. Jenkins**



we have a special relationship with members of the PFA office that can help expedite your Petition so that you can get a court order immediately. This order may apply to both you and your children. We can prevent the abuser from going to your home, work and school.

In short, a temporary PFA is one of the most powerful tools in our legal system because it allows the granting of a court order without hearing from both parties. It can be especially helpful if one spouse, family member or intimate partner is afraid to move out of the house without protection.

I take abuse very seriously. If you have been abused, do not wait to file a PFA as this can be used against you (as evidence that you are not really afraid of the abuser). Many times, women, especially if they are financially dependent on their spouse or significant other, will be too afraid to file. At our consultation we can review the law and PFA procedures to come up with a solution that's right for you and your family.

I strongly suggest that you contact me prior to filing a temporary PFA. The reason for this is that the hearing is only going to center around the allegations of abuse contained in your Petition. Past instances of abuse will not be included unless specifically listed in your Petition. A savvy defense attorney will attempt to confuse or frustrate the victim by confining your testimony to the Petition. If you do not allege actual physical abuse such as pushing, hitting or kicking, then it is important to show how and why any verbal threats of abuse or violence truly made you afraid. Both the objective and subjective meanings may be considered. For example, if your Petition states that you spouse threatened to shoot you, evidence that you spouse has a gun would most certainly be relevant.

## The PFA Hearing in Pennsylvania

At the PFA hearing, a permanent Protection from Abuse order may be issued. A permanent PFA order can apply for up to 18 months. PFA orders address matters including:

- Spousal abuse
- Child abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Threats of violence

The PFA hearing can be resolution-oriented with agreements reached by both parties. Sometimes a spouse or roommate will agree to move out or leave town, precluding the need for a court order.

*Domestic violence is a crime – not a career, a lifestyle, or a choice. Leaving a violent domestic situation is a difficult process, complicated by concerns for safety and economics*

PFA hearings are civil court matters, designed to provide legal protection for family members, friends, and children. A PFA order does not require a criminal charge. However, violation of a Protection From Abuse Order is a criminal offense. In fact, recently some courts have even held that the inception of a temporary order constitutes a probation/parole violation (even though a PFA order is a civil matter).

## Experience

I have represented defendants in PFA matters throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. My firm handles domestic violence orders, children's rights, and Protection from Abuse orders. Solutions can range from attending domestic abuse counseling classes in exchange for a reduction or withdrawal of the charges to jail time. [Contact us](#) today.

