

Information for Victims of Domestic Violence

A. An individual, regardless of gender, seeking to file either a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Petition, Protection from Intimidation (PFI) Petition or Sexual Violence Protection (SVP) Petition is encouraged, but not required to, contact:

Lawyer Referral for Franklin & Fulton Counties, Pennsylvania

There are two non-profit agencies in Franklin County that may be able to offer free help to residents of Franklin and Fulton counties to file and obtain Protection from Abuse Orders (PFAs), Sexual Violence Protection Orders (SVPOs) and Protection from Intimidation Orders (PFIs).

Women in Need is a local organization available to assist adult victims or adult victims and their children of domestic violence and sexual assault with representation in Protection From Abuse (PFAs) and/or Sexual Violence Protection orders (SVPOs) cases. Women In Need cannot provide assistance with Protection from Intimidation Orders (PFIs).

They can be contacted by calling 1-800-621-6660 or 717-264-4444.

MidPenn Legal Services is a local legal services organization that provides representation for Protection from Intimidation Orders (PFIs), Protection from Abuse Orders (PFAs), and/or Sexual Violence Protection Orders (SVPOs) cases for minor victims, as well as adult cases that are conflicts referred to MidPenn by Women In Need.

MidPenn Legal Services is located at 230 Lincoln Way East, Suite A, Chambersburg PA 17201. They can be contacted by calling the Coordinated Intake Unit at 800-326-9177.

Alternative Source of Assistance:

If you are in need of assistance and Women In Need or MidPenn Legal Services cannot provide assistance, you may contact the Pennsylvania Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at 1-800-692-7375.

If one of these organizations can assist you, they will refer you to someone who can help you with the process who will schedule a meeting with you to complete the necessary paperwork.

B. An individual seeking to file a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Petition, Protection from Intimidation (PFI) Petition or Sexual Violence Protection (SVP) Petition who does not wish to use an advocacy agency or attorney should do the following:

If you do not wish to utilize a victim advocacy agency and/or their lawyers to file a petition on your behalf and represent you, you can go to the Fulton County Prothonotary's Office, Fulton County Court House, 201 N. 2nd Street, McConnellsburg, PA, 17201. There a staff member can print the paperwork needed for you to complete the petition and order. You will then be directed to call the 39th District Court Administration office where a staff member will arrange a hearing the same day you file the petition with a judge to consider your request for a temporary order for protection.

If after the temporary protection order hearing the judge determines that a temporary order for protection should be entered, the order will be signed providing for protection and scheduling the case for a final protection hearing within 10 days. If the judge determines that a temporary order for protection should not be entered, a temporary order will still be signed by the judge scheduling a final hearing in 10 days.

The temporary order, along with other legal documents, is served by the Fulton County Sheriff's Department on the abuser. Once this is done, the Temporary Order is enforceable.

A Final Hearing will be scheduled within 10 days to determine if the Order will be in effect and how long it will remain effective.

In addition to getting the forms and orders from the Prothonotary's office, the forms and orders can also be accessed on the Internet at the following website: <http://www.pacourts.us/forms/for-the-public>. The website provides a link to an informational video on Vimeo Video called "PFAs Do Work: Four Easy Steps to Obtain a PFA." Perry/Juniata County Court of Common Pleas President Judge Kathy A. Morrow narrates the video that explains how to file a protection from abuse order against an abusive partner.