

Interjurisdictional Service in Pennsylvania  
A Resource from the Pandemic Rapid Response Team

December 2022



	Ex Parte Protective Order (Temporary/Emergency)	Final Protective Order
Statute	23 Pa. C.S.A. §6101, <a href="#">Protection from Abuse Act</a>	
Terminology	Temporary Protection From Abuse Order (“TPFA”)	Protection From Abuse Order (“PFA”)
Length of Order	Up to 10 business days after filing a petition.	Up to 3 years.
Available Relief	<p>Order the defendant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrain from abusing the plaintiff or children</li> <li>• Refrain from contacting the plaintiff or children, including entering the workplace/school, harassing plaintiff’s relatives, etc.</li> <li>• Leave the residence or provide alternate housing</li> <li>• Refrain from purchasing firearms</li> <li>• Surrender firearms, other weapons, and ammunition to the sheriff</li> </ul> <p>Grant the plaintiff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possession of the residence or alternate housing</li> </ul> <p>The court may also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish temporary custody and visitation rights</li> </ul>	<p>In addition to relief offered by a temporary order:</p> <p>Order the defendant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrain from abusing, harassing, stalking, threatening or attempting to use physical force against the petitioner or children</li> <li>• Pay medical, housing costs associated with supporting the plaintiff and children</li> </ul>

Protected Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current or former spouse</li> <li>• Currently or formerly living as spouses</li> <li>• Parents</li> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Related by consanguinity or affinity</li> <li>• Current or former sexual / intimate partners</li> <li>• Have child in common</li> </ul>
Requirements for Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The court will send the order to the law enforcement agency with appropriate jurisdiction to enforce and/or serve the order on the respondent (or another designated agency).</li> <li>• Upon receipt, law enforcement will immediately enter the order in the statewide registry of protection orders.</li> </ul>
Registration Required for Enforcement	Not required.
<a href="#">Military Jurisdictions</a>	<p>Military Bases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 171ARW</li> <li>• 193 SOW</li> <li>• Carlisle Barracks</li> <li>• Defense Logistics Agency at Susquehanna</li> <li>• Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg</li> <li>• Naval Support Activity Philadelphia</li> <li>• Tobyhanna Army Depot</li> <li>• USAREC, Harrisburg Battalion</li> </ul> <p>Processes on Military Jurisdictions: Contact the individual military jurisdiction for service process details.</p>
<a href="#">Tribal Jurisdictions</a>	<p>Federally Recognized Tribe: None</p> <p>State Recognized Tribes: None</p>

Other Information	<p>Additional forms of relief include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency protection from abuse order (“EPFA”) §6110(b) – Expires the next business day the court deems itself available.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Protection from intimidation order</a> (“PFIO”) 43 Pa. C.S.A. §62A05 – Provides up to 3 years of protection. Available for minors, when abusive stranger or acquaintance is 18 or over.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Sexual violence protection order</a> (“SVPO”) 43 Pa. C.S.A. §62A05 – Provides up to 3 years of protection. Available for adult and minor victims of sexual abuse or harassment by a stranger or acquaintance.</li> </ul>
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Out of State Service Fees<sup>1</sup>:

None

For more information, please contact State Point of Contact Amy Kehner (amy.kehner@pacourts.us).

If you would like to provide suggestions/feedback on this Profile, visit:  
[https://ncsc2.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eQzzYCcGK38Q64C](https://ncsc2.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eQzzYCcGK38Q64C)

<sup>1</sup> Courts should not charge a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault any costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, or service of protection orders, whether issued by civil or criminal courts, including intra- and inter-jurisdictional orders. This no-cost provision also applies to any fees or costs associated with a criminal matter related to domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and sexual assault (42 U.S.C. § 3796 hh(c)(4)). Charging any of these costs will render a jurisdiction ineligible for certain VAWA funds.