

WE ARE REACHING OUT TO YOU BECAUSE....

- ✓ A PFA can be confusing
- ✓ We want you to know where to turn for assistance in handling a PFA
- ✓ We know how valuable it is to think about safety- yours and others.

*****If you have been served with an Emergency Protection Order (EPFA)**

If you are served with an EPFA, it is in effect until the close of business the next day the Court is open. This may be the following day at 5:00 pm or the first day the Court is open after a holiday or weekend. Until that time, all restrictions listed in this brochure are in place.

To Whom Can I Turn?

Shelter

Centre House

814-237-5508

Housing Transitions

814-237-5509

Domestic Violence Intervention Program

Crossroads Counseling Inc.

814-231-0940

Behavioral Health

Centre County Mental Health

814-355-6744

Centre County Can Help:

(800)-643-5432

Legal Help

PA Lawyer Referral Services

1-800-682-7375

A list of low cost attorneys can be found on the Court Administration page of the Centre County website:
www.centrecountypa.gov

Court Administration
(for scheduling only)

814-355-6727

WHAT TO DO & WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE SERVED with a PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDER (PFA)



November 2016

What is a Protection From Abuse Order(PFA)?

A protection from abuse order is a civil court order that provides protection for an individual who has been abused, harassed, threatened, or stalked. It is a court order signed by a judge ordering you to have no contact with the alleged victim, and may include children, or you will face serious legal consequences.

When does the PFA become effective?

The order you have is a temporary order. A hearing is scheduled to occur within ten days to consider a permanent order. At the hearing you will have an opportunity to state your case. A permanent order may restrict you for a period of up to three years.

What if we have children together and the PFA states I cannot have contact with them?

If you share children with the petitioner of the PFA, and your children have been listed as a protected party on the PFA, you are NOT permitted to contact them unless specified within the PFA, or until a final decision has been made at the final PFA hearing.

If you violate the PFA, you WILL be arrested.

When a PFA is served against you:



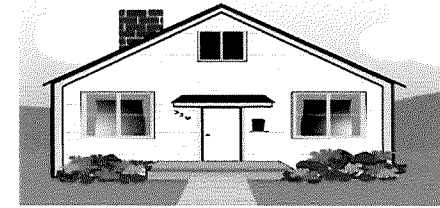
What NOT to do:

- ✓ **Do Not go home if evicted**
- ✓ **Do Not call, text, write, email or use social media with protected person**
- ✓ **Do Not go near the protected person's home, work, or school**
- ✓ **Do Not attempt to contact the protected person through children or a third party**



What can I do?

- ✓ **Read your PFA carefully and contact an attorney if you have any questions**
- ✓ **Attend the hearing that is scheduled**
- ✓ **Contact a Domestic Abuse Intervention Program**



HOW DO I GET MY PERSONAL THINGS FROM MY HOME?

- ✓ Call an attorney
- ✓ Wait until after the PFA hearing, when arrangements to get your belongings can be made with the court's approval

Where do I go if I am evicted?

- ✓ Call family or friends for a place to stay
- ✓ Go to a motel
- ✓ Go to a shelter (listed in pamphlet)

What happens to my firearms?



If the order indicates a relinquishing of personal weapons, DO NOT attempt to get your weapons. The disposition on any seizure will be determined at your hearing.