

In Pennsylvania, there are three different civil protection order options that offer victims of certain crimes relief from further harm from their perpetrator.

Civil protection orders can be filed whether or not the incident has been reported to the police. If you are considering filing a civil protection order, you may find it helpful to contact your local sexual assault or domestic violence advocacy program, legal services, and/or an attorney to thoroughly review your options.

This handout is not a substitute for professional legal advice.



Pennsylvania Coalition to
Advance Respect

a division of respect together

📞 1-888-772-PCAR
🌐 www.pcar.org

©2024 Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect.
All rights reserved.

This project was supported by Subgrant Number 36156 awarded to PCCD by the Federal Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice's STOP Formula Grant Program. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the reviews of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the U.S. Department of Justice.

Options for **Civil Protection Orders** in Pennsylvania



Protection
From Abuse
Order



Sexual
Violence
Protection
Order



Protection
From
Intimidation
Order





Protection from Abuse Order

PFAs are appropriate when there are cases of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse where the victim and defendant have these types of relationships:

- ✓ Current or former spouses
- ✓ People who live or have lived as spouses
- ✓ Current or former intimate or sexual partners
- ✓ Family and/or household members who are related by blood (consanguinity)
- ✓ Family and/or household members who are related through marriage or affinity
- ✓ Parent-child
- ✓ Siblings

PFAs can be filed regardless of the ages of the parties involved. However, if the victim is under the age of 18, an adult** must file on the minor's behalf.



Sexual Violence Protection Order

SVPOs are appropriate in cases of sexual violence* where the victim and perpetrator do not have and have never had a family, household, or intimate partner relationship. For example, SVPOs may be granted when the victim and the defendant have these types of relationships:

- ✓ Strangers
- ✓ Acquaintances
- ✓ Friends
- ✓ Co-workers
- ✓ Neighbors

SVPOs can be filed regardless of the ages of the parties involved. However, if the victim is under the age of 18, an adult** must file on the minor's behalf.



Protection from Intimidation Order

PFIs are appropriate in cases of harassment* and stalking* where the victim and the perpetrator do not have and have never had a family, household, or intimate partner relationship AND the victim is under the age of 18 AND the defendant is over the age of 18. PFIs cannot be granted in cases involving two minors, two adults, or where a minor is harassing or stalking an adult.

If the victim is under the age of 18, an adult** must file on the minor's behalf.

*As defined by Title 42 Pa.C.S. Chapter 62A

**In order for an adult to file on a minor's behalf, the adult must be a parent, legal guardian, or adult household member.