

Beaver County – Protection From Abuse Petition / Intake Procedure

1) Who can I file against?

Pursuant to 23 Pa.C.S. §6102, the plaintiff (or protected person, if filing on behalf of another) must have one of the following relationships with the defendant:¹

- A family member or household member
- A sexual or intimate partner
- A person with whom you share biological parenthood (i.e., you share a child)

2) What type of conduct constitutes “abuse” under the Protection from Abuse Act?

Pursuant to 23 PA.C.S. §6102, the following conduct is “abuse”:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing bodily injury, serious bodily injury, rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, sexual assault, statutory sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault, indecent assault or incest with or without a deadly weapon.
- Placing another in reasonable fear of imminent serious bodily injury.
- The infliction of false imprisonment pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. § 2903 (relating to false imprisonment).
- Physically or sexually abusing minor children, including such terms as defined in Chapter 63 (relating to child protective services).
- Knowingly engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts toward another person, including following the person, without proper authority, under circumstances which place the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury. The definition of this paragraph applies only to proceedings commenced under this title and is inapplicable to any criminal prosecutions commenced under Title 18 (relating to crimes and offenses).
- To be eligible for a temporary order, there must be an immediate and present danger of “abuse” as defined. 23 Pa.C.S. §6107(b).

3) Filing a Petition

The Beaver County Court of Common Pleas will accept Petitions for Temporary PFAs between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. At other times you can file for an Emergency PFA from your local MDJ or the MDJ on-duty if after-hours.

- Be prepared to spend the entire morning at the Courthouse. **To expedite the process for yourself and other petitioners that day, please consider completing the Petition prior to arriving at the Courthouse. The Petition is available at all MDJ offices and on the Court’s website at <https://www.beavercountypa.gov/Depts/Courts>.** If you do not own a printer, you can still complete the Petition on the website and email to pfa@beavercountypa.gov. You will be required to appear in front of a Judge and testify.
- When answering the questions regarding incidents of abuse, please focus on the actual conduct that constitutes “abuse” as defined above; extensive background information is often unnecessary.

¹ Other relationships may qualify under a Sexual Violence Protection Order or a Protection from Sexual Violence & Intimidation Order.