

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
MIDDLE DISTRICT**

AND

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF HUNTINGDON COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: 20 th Judicial District – Electronic	:	33 MM 2020
Filing of Certain Petitions for Protection	:	CP-31-MD-83-2020
From Abuse Orders	:	AO-5-2020

REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 1st day of April, 2020, in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, and pursuant to the Supreme Court’s Order of April 1, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket), this Court’s Declaration of Judicial Emergency, issued April 1, 2020, and the Administrative Orders issued thereunder, the Court Orders as follows:

1. This Revised Administrative Order supersedes and replaces prior AO-5-2020, filed March 16, 2020. For purposes of clarification, it shall in no way affect the validity of any Protection From Abuse Orders issued pursuant to the procedure set forth therein.
2. All individuals contacting the Court of Common Pleas or the Prothonotary seeking a Protection form Abuse Order during normal business hours shall be directed to contact either Huntingdon House or The Abuse Network for assistance with completing and filing a Petition for Temporary PFA. If neither Huntingdon House nor The Abuse Network is available to assist the individual, the Prothonotary shall then assist them with completing and filing the Petition (with the caveat that such assistance shall not extend to providing legal advice).
3. The procedure for seeking PFAs after normal business hours shall remain largely unchanged, with petitioners contacting 911 and then

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Prothonotary/Clerk of Court on

APR 01 2020


being directed to the on-call Magisterial District Judge for an Emergency PFA. However, rather than directing the petitioner to appear at the Court of Common Pleas within 24 hours to seek a Temporary PFA, the Magisterial District Judge shall direct the petitioner to contact Huntingdon House or The Abuse Network first, and then the Prothonotary if neither agency is available, within the 24-hour timeframe (per the process in Paragraph 2, above).

4. Petitions for Emergency PFAs filed by or with the assistance of Huntingdon House, The Abuse Network, or a private attorney may be filed via e-mail to the Prothonotary as a .pdf attachment at prothonotary.orders@huntingdoncounty.net, with copy to Court Administration at ctadmin.orders@huntingdoncounty.net, or via facsimile sent to the Prothonotary and Court Administration. In either case, Court Administration will provide the Petition to the Judge for review. The *ex parte* hearing for all Petitions filed in this manner will be conducted by advanced communication technology (likely telephone, but possibly via Zoom, if appropriate). The Court will initiate the call or provide the meeting instructions by e-mail. Therefore, the petitioner shall remain at Huntingdon House, The Abuse Network, or the office of their attorney pending the hearing, and the transmittal e-mail or facsimile cover sheet for the Petition shall include a phone number where the petitioner (and their counsel, if represented) can be reached directly, as well as an e-mail address, if available.
5. Upon receipt of a Petition filed via e-mail, the Prothonotary shall print the transmittal e-mail and all attached documents and file them as if received in hard copy. Petitions filed via facsimile shall include the cover sheet. In each case, the Prothonotary shall add the notation "Filed under AO-5-2020" next to the time stamp.
6. For situations where an individual's freedom of movement is restricted, either physically or medically, such that they cannot meet in person with Huntingdon House, The Abuse Network, or the Prothonotary (such

as where a person is hospitalized, or is unable to leave their home due to a quarantine, physical handicap, or lack of available transportation), the Court will determine an appropriate accommodation to enable the filing and taking of testimony.

7. This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately, and shall continue in effect until the termination of the Judicial Emergency.

BY THE COURT:


George N. Zanic, President Judge

C: Irene Bizzoso, Esq., Supreme Court Prothonotary
Geoff Moulton, Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
Stacey Witlec
Kay Coons, Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts
Virginia Cooper, Register & Recorder/Clerk of the Orphans' Court
Jeffrey E. Leonard, Sheriff
Shannon Walborn, Director, Department of Children and Youth
Angela J. Robinson, District Court Administrator
Huntingdon House
The Abuse Network
Huntingdon County Bar Association