

Infographic for Immediate Release
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Pennsylvania Courts Look at Protection from Abuse Orders During Domestic Violence Awareness Month

HARRISBURG — Over 39,000 new protection from Abuse (PFA) orders were filed statewide in 2019. A PFA is a civil court order that protects victims of domestic violence, providing relief from abuse by an intimate partner, family or household member.

The infographic below highlights 2019 court data including the statewide number of PFAs filed over the last five years, the **top 10 counties** with the highest number of PFA filings and the percentages of PFA case outcomes. A high-resolution file of the graphic is available for download at www.pacourts.us under [Media Resources](#).

Protection from Abuse
Orders in Pennsylvania

What is a PFA?

A protection from abuse order (PFA) is a civil court order to help protect victims of domestic violence, providing relief from abuse by an intimate partner, family or household member.

In 2019:

39,132

New petitions requesting relief under the PFA Act were filed

90%

of temporary PFAs filed (valid until a final hearing) were granted

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of new PFA filings increased slightly by 4%.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
37,563	39,056	39,083	39,048	39,132

A PFA can order an abuser to:

- Have no contact with you or your children including: no texting, no calling, no communication via social media
- Leave the home where you both live
- Pay reasonable losses suffered as a result of the abuse

Top 10 counties with highest number of new PFA cases in 2019:

Percentages given reflect the percent of total state filings.

PFA case outcomes

	cases	% of total
Plaintiff did not appear in court	10,144	(27%)
Withdrawn by plaintiff	7,794	(21%)
Agreement reached between parties	7,165	(19%)
Final order granted	6,592	(17%)
Temporary order dismissed/denied	4,169	(11%)
Final order denied	1,782	(5%)
Other	154	(<1%)

Total # of PFA cases processed in 2019: **37,818**

AOPC

Additional data, including county-level data, is available at <http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/research-and-statistics/>. For detailed information about protection orders and the process of filing a petition for a PFA, go to <http://www.pacourts.us/learn/protection-orders>.

PA Courts InfoShare is a monthly product of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) that visually highlights the work of the courts with interesting data and statistics obtained through the judiciary's case management systems, interactive dashboards and other research. Reproduction is permissible with source cited.



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