

Infographic for Immediate Release

Oct. 6, 2023

A closer look at Protection from Abuse Orders in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — In 2022, the number of new Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders filed statewide **increased by five percent** from 2021. A 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. Additional information about protection orders is available [here](#).

The infographic below highlights 2022 PFA data including the statewide number of PFAs filed over the last five years, the top 10 counties with the highest number of PFA cases 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](#). View county-by-county PFA data via the PFA [interactive dashboards](#).

A closer look at statewide PFA filings

What is a PFA?

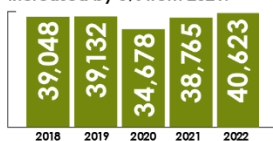
A protection from abuse (PFA) order is a civil court order that helps protect victims of domestic violence, providing relief from abuse by an intimate partner, family or household member.

In 2022:

40,623 new petitions requesting relief under the PFA Act (Title 23, Chp. 61) were filed

88% of temporary PFAs filed (valid until a final hearing) were granted

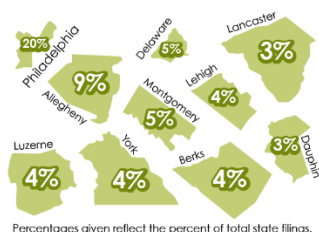
In 2022, the number of PFA's filed **increased by 5% from 2021**.



A PFA can order an abuser to:

- Have **no** contact with the victim or victim's children including: no texting, no calling, no communication via social media
- Relinquish any weapons
- Leave the home where the victim lives

Top 10 counties with highest number of new PFA cases in 2022:



PFA case outcomes:

	processed cases	% of total
Plaintiff did not appear in court	10,826	(26%)
Withdrawn by plaintiff	8,494	(21%)
Final order granted	7,355	(18%)
Agreement reached between parties	6,855	(17%)
Temporary order dismissed/denied	5,202	(13%)
Final order denied	1,864	(5%)
Case transferred/other dispositions	219	(1%)

Total # of PFA cases disposed in 2022: **40,615**

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 the source cited.



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