



# Filing for a PFA?

## Protection From Abuse Order (PFA)

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Domestic Violence (DV) is a pattern of abusive behavior that occurs between family members, ex-spouses, intimate cohabitants, former intimate cohabitants, dating couples and former dating couples in which one party seeks to gain/maintain power and control over the other.

Domestic Violence can involve physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological abuse and includes behaviors that intimidate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, hurt or injure someone.

### **Things to Consider When Filing For a PFA**

**If you have experienced any of the following, be sure to include them on your PFA Petition as they are relevant to your case.**

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| ◇ Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year? | ◇ Does your abuser threaten to harm or take your children? | ◇ Has your abuser ever forced you to have sexual relations against your will? |
| ◇ Does your abuser own a gun?  | ◇ Does your abuser threaten to commit suicide?             | ◇ Does your abuser attempt to control your daily activities?                  |
| ◇ Has your abuser ever threatened to kill you?                                     | ◇ Is your abuser a problem drinker?                        | ◇ Have you left him/her during the past year?                                 |
| ◇ Has your abuser ever used or threatened you with a weapon and/or object?         | ◇ Does your partner abuse drugs or prescription drugs?     | ◇ Has your abuser ever harmed your pets?                                      |
| ◇ Did he/she become unemployed recently?   | ◇ Is your abuser jealous of your other relationships?      | ◇ Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?             |

Please include information about anything that you found to be frightening, threatening or abusive.



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### 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotlines

<b>New Castle County</b>	<b>(302) 762-6110</b>	<b>New Castle County Bi-Lingual</b>	<b>(302) 762-6110</b>
<b>Northern Kent County</b>	<b>(302) 678-3886</b>	<b>Kent/Sussex County Bi-Lingual</b>	<b>(302) 745-9874</b>
<b>Kent &amp; Sussex County</b>	<b>(302) 422-8058</b>		

Hotline Staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can explain the resources & services available to help victims of abuse.

- Safety Planning
- Court Assistance
- Police Assistance
- Group/Individual Counseling
- Financial Assistance
- Shelter services
- Case Management
- Legal Representation
- Career Training & Assistance

To contact 24-Hour police-based victim assistance call **1-800-VICTIM-1**

### Domestic Violence Advocates

Volunteer advocates are available in Family Court to assist you in filing a Protection From Abuse Petition.

**New Castle:**  
**(302) 255-0420**

**Kent:**  
**(302) 672-1075**

**Sussex:**  
**(302) 856-5843**

**IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN DANGER – CALL 911**