After the Protection Order: What Happens Next?

Acronyms & Terms

Family Court

***For a more comprehensive list of frequently used terms, use Family Court Glossary of Legal Terms as a reference. The list below is just what we'll cover in the webinar.**

Capias: An order issued by a Court to take an individual into custody.

CRF: Child-Related Relief Facilitator Program - a voluntary and confidential service for parents and caregivers involved in a PFA who need to address child-related matters, such as temporary custody, visitation, and communication.

Consent Order/PFA by Consent: When the Petitioner and Respondent agree to the terms of a protection order, they both go before a Judicial Officer to have the PFA order signed

DVI: Domestic Violence Intervention - also sometimes called "treatment" - the mandated domestic violence treatment program a respondent may have to successfully complete as part of a PFA order

DELJIS: Delaware Criminal Justice Information System - the shared State of Delaware database for Courts, law enforcement, Department of Corrections, and other state agencies that work with the criminal justice system

Default Order/PFA by Default: if the Respondent fails to appear in court, the protection order can be issued at a default hearing

Docket - A record of Court proceedings - this is often used interchangeably with "calendar" to describe the cases that the Court will be hearing during a specific period of time

Ex Parte: An emergency order or hearing where the respondent is not notified or present.

FAMIS: Family Court Automated Information System - the database used by Family Court staff (you'll hear it pronounced like "famous")

FTA: Failure to appear (in Court)

PCOMP: Protection from Abuse Order Compliance Calendar - this is no longer an active Family Court code, but this is how staff/advocates often refer to the Compliance Calendar

*Advocates, you may see PFACO or PFASC - these are the Family Court codes used on some documents when referring to the Compliance Calendar

Petitioner: the person who files for a protection order

PFA: Protection from Abuse Order - also referred to as a protection order
*Advocates, you may see the abbreviations OPFA, OPFC, or OPFD on documents to refer to which type of PFA the order is (trial, consent, or default)

Litigant: a person involved in a legal case

Mediation: a required Family Court process where persons are given an opportunity to resolve their differences and make their own agreement which, when signed by a Judge or Commissioner, becomes an enforceable Order of the Court

NCCSO: New Castle County Sheriff's Office

Respondent: the person who a protection order is issued against (we may use litigant, offender, and respondent interchangeably throughout the webinar)

Treatment: an unofficial term often used to refer to Domestic Violence Intervention (DVI)

VIP: Delaware Capitol Police Domestic Violence Program - provides a safe escort for domestic violence victim-survivors to and from court

Writ: a court order or legal order
Writ of Injunction/Sequestration: A court order that can be issued in certain protective orders or criminal proceedings to direct law enforcement to search for and seize firearms from a person who is alleged to pose a danger to themselves or others.

Department of Corrections/ Probation & Parole

BOR: Breach of Release - A violation of a condition while a criminal case is pending. A material breach may result in arrest, cancellation of bail, and return to court for reconsideration of conditions of release.

Conditions of Supervision: The legal rules and requirements from the court or releasing authority that an individual must follow while under supervision (probation, parole, or supervised release)

DACS: Delaware Automated Correction System - DOC's information database

DELJIS: Delaware Criminal Justice Information System - the shared State of Delaware database for Courts, law enforcement, Department of Corrections, and other state agencies that work with the criminal justice system

DSP: Delaware State Police

Exclusion Zone: A GPS-monitored restricted area that the supervised individual is prohibited from entering. The restriction is authorized as part of the person's supervision.

GPS Alert: A location or equipment-based notification triggered when a device enters or leaves a designated geographic boundary, arrives at a monitored location, or has a charging or equipment issue. The alert requires officer review but does not, by itself, establish that a law or condition of supervision was violated.

ICAOS: Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Interest Zone: A monitored location used for officer awareness, but entry into an interest zone alone does not automatically establish a supervision violation or warrant an arrest. For example, a place the victim frequently visits.

Out-Of-State Protection Order - a protection order issued by a court or tribunal in another state. A valid out-of-state protection order is still enforceable in Delaware.

PO: Probation Officer - a law enforcement officer with the Probation and Parole division of the Department of Corrections

P&P: Probation & Parole - a division under the Department of Corrections (DOC)

Receiving State: The state to which supervision is transferred and that provides day-to-day supervision under the Interstate Compact.

Sending State: The state requesting or transferring an individual's supervision under the Interstate Compact.

Special Condition of Supervision: An individualized requirement added to a person's supervision - i.e. no contact with a specific person

VOP: Violation of Probation - an allegation that an individual violated a condition of probation or a suspended sentence that was issued by the court. The court determines whether or not there was a violation.

Police & Police Based Victim Services

CJIS: Criminal Justice Information Services - national criminal justice database

DELJIS: Delaware Criminal Justice Information System

VIP: Delaware Capitol Police Domestic Violence Program - provides a safe escort for domestic violence victim-survivors to and from court

Community Programs & Resources

Court Order: An unofficial term many advocates use to refer to any civil or criminal order like a PFA

DVAP: Domestic Violence Advocacy Program - advocates located in Family Court to assist with the PFA process and referrals for additional support

DVI: Domestic Violence Intervention - also sometimes called “treatment” - the mandated domestic violence treatment program a respondent may have to successfully complete as part of a PFA order

Treatment: an unofficial term often used to refer to Domestic Violence Intervention (DVI)