

## **PROTECTION FROM ABUSE (PFA) ORDER**

**If you are a victim of domestic violence, you have the right to go to court and file a PFA order which could include the following:**

- 1) Restrain the abuser from further acts of abuse;
- 2) Tell the abuser to leave your household;
- 3) Keep the abuser from entering your home, school, or work;
- 4) Give you or the other parent temporary custody of or visitation with your child or children;
- 5) Tell the abuser to pay support to you and the minor children if the abuser has a legal duty to do so;
- 6) Tell the abuser to give up any weapons;
- 7) Tell the abuser to stop stalking or harassing you or other persons in your family; and
- 8) Tell the abuser to pay for your losses from the abuse.

**To obtain a PFA order you must be:**

- 1) A spouse or former spouse of the offender;
- 2) A parent of a common child of the offender;
- 3) A current or former sexual or intimate partner with the offender;
- 4) A child of the victim;
- 5) A child of the offender;
- 6) A family member related by blood/marriage to the offender;
- 7) A sibling (person who shares biological parenthood) of the offender; or
- 8) A current or former cohabitant (person who lives or lived with the offender.).

**There are 3 types of PFA's:**

- 1) Emergency - Monday - Friday 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m., weekends and holidays. During this time you must go to Reading Central Court, 1st floor of the Berks County Courthouse. The emergency order is only valid for 24 hours.
- 2) Temporary - Monday - Friday at 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. During this time you must go to the PFA office on the 1st floor of the Berks County Services Center.
- 3) Final - a hearing date and time are set to finalize the PFA in front of a Court of Common Pleas Judge.

**\*\*Please note from the hours 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. you can call the PFA Office or Berks Women in Crisis for assistance.\*\***

For more information, contact PFA Office at (610) 478-6208, ext. 5701 /ext. 5702 or Safe Berks at (610) 372-9540 (hotline) or (610) 372-7463 (Spanish speaking line).