A closer look at statewide PFA filings

infoshare PACOURTS

What is a PFA Order?

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.

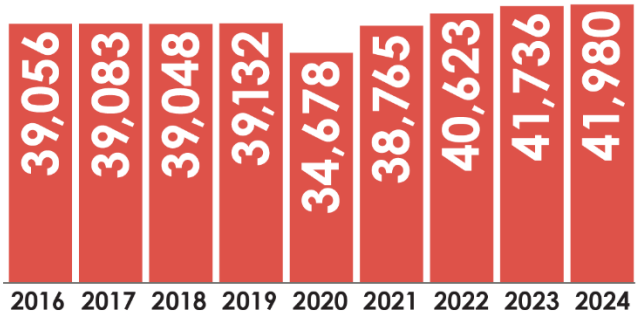
In 2024:

41,980 **new petitions** requesting relief under the PFA Act (Title 23, Ch. 61) were filed

87% **of temporary PFAs** filed (valid until a final hearing) were granted

PFAs filed

In 2024 the number of PFAs filed **increased by <1%** from 2023.



A PFA can order an abuser to:

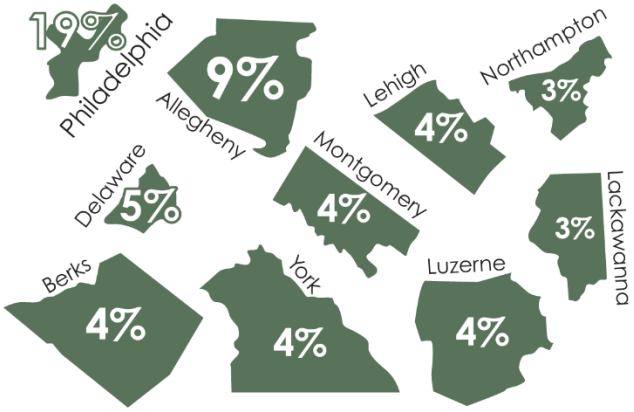


- Have **no** contact with the victim or victim's children including: no texting, no calling, no communication via social media



- Relinquish any weapons
- Leave the home where the victim lives

Top 10 counties with highest number of new PFA cases in 2024:



Percentages given reflect the percent of total state filings.

PFA case outcomes:

	processed cases	% of total
Plaintiff did not appear in court	10,864	(26%)
Withdrawn by plaintiff	8,427	(20%)
Final order granted	7,260	(18%)
Agreement reached between parties	7,026	(17%)
Temporary order dismissed/denied	5,451	(13%)
Final order denied	1,900	(5%)
Case transferred/other dispositions	540	(1%)

Total # of PFA cases disposed in 2024: 41,468

Learn more at http://www.pacourts.us/learn/protection-orders

Additional data, including county-level data, are available at http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/research-and-statistics/.

*These data do not include Protection from Sexual Violence or Intimidation (PSVI) filings.

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Protection from Abuse (PFA) Caseload

Statewide | County | Class of County | Glossary

Select a Category
Cases Filed and Processed

Select One or More Counties
Multiple values

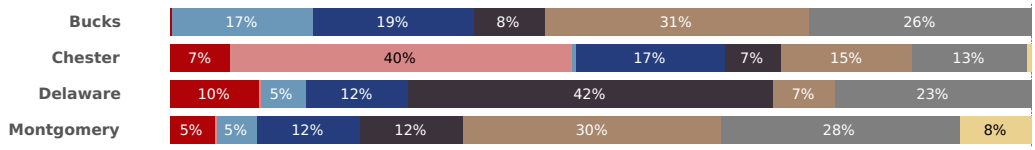
Select a Year
2024

***Hover over numbers or graphs for more information.**

2024 Protection from Abuse Cases Filed and Processed

County	Class of County	Cases Pending at the Beginning of the Year	New Cases Filed	Processed by: No Hearing Scheduled After Temporary Order Denied	No Final Order After Temporary Order Dismissed	Final Order Denied After Hearing Before a Judge	Final Order Granted After Hearing Before a Judge	Plaintiff D A
Bucks	2A	27	770	0	0	131	148	
Chester	3rd	671	682	46	259	3	113	
Delaware	2A	1,007	2,279	214	0	114	248	
Montgomery	2A	455	1,855	103	5	92	237	

2024 Protection from Abuse Cases Processed by:



Note: The disposition outcomes include practices adopted by local courts.

- No Hearing Scheduled After Temporary Order Denied
- No Final Order After Temporary Order Dismissed
- Final Order Denied After Hearing Before a Judge
- Final Order Granted After Hearing Before a Judge
- Plaintiff Did Not Appear
- Stipulation or Agreement Between the Parties
- Withdrawn
- Other

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Protection from Abuse (PFA) Caseload

Statewide | County | Class of County | Glossary

Select a Category
Petitions Requesting Temporary Orde..

Select One or More Counties
Multiple values

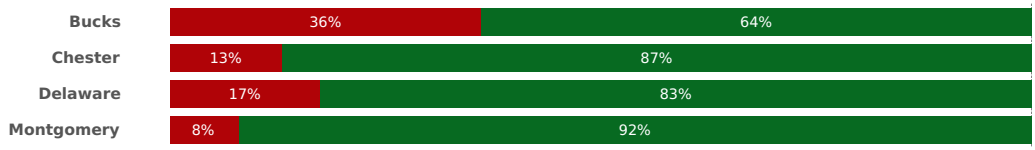
Select a Year
2024

***Hover over numbers or graphs for more information.**

2024 Protection from Abuse Petitions Requesting Temporary Orders

County	Class of County	Requested	Denied	Granted
Bucks	2A	770	278	492
Chester	3rd	682	88	594
Delaware	2A	2,279	398	1,881
Montgomery	2A	1,855	148	1,707

2024 Protection from Abuse - Percent of Temporary Order Requests Granted



Note: The disposition outcomes include practices adopted by local courts.

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