

Protection From Abuse Orders & Compliance

A GUIDE TO COMPLIANCE WITH PFA ORDERS IN THE FAMILY COURT

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

http://courts.delaware.gov/family

PFA Rule to **Show Cause** hearing, is a review hearing before a Family Court Commissioner in which a PFA Respondent would need to show cause as to why he/she has or has not followed through with the recommendations of the DVCC certified agency.

Who are the DVCC certified treatment providers?

Child Inc.

Catholic Charities

Turning Point at People's Place

Dover Air Force Base (for military and dependents)

How much does it cost for a DV evaluation?

Each agency has its own fee schedule that can be discussed when you meet with the DVCC certified agency.

If I'm ordered to do a domestic violence evaluation do I automatically have to do counseling?

Respondents who have been ordered to do a domestic violence evaluation are not automatically put into domestic violence counseling. DVCC certified agencies will conduct an evaluation to determine what kind of counseling/treatment is needed if any. If the DVCC certified agency recommends domestic violence counseling, the course must be completed in order to be compliant with the Protection from Abuse Order.

How long do I have to notify the Court about my evaluation?

Respondents who are ordered to a domestic violence evaluation under a PFA have two weeks to provide **written** information to the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (the address is listed on the PFA order) regarding the anticipated start date and anticipated completion date if known of any recommended counseling or treatment.

Once I've completed my domestic violence counseling, who do I notify?

You may send written information for the domestic violence course you completed to the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (the address is listed on your PFA order).

What happens if the Respondent decides to not to follow the recommendations of the DVCC certified agency?

The violation of an Order of Protection from Abuse is a crime punishable by up to one year in jail and/or fine of up to \$2300.00. If the Respondent disobeys an Order of Protection, he or she is subject to arrest and, if convicted, may be fined or sent to jail. The Respondent may also be scheduled for a PFA Rule to Show Cause Hearing.

What is a PFA Rule to Show Cause Hearing?

A PFA Rule to Show Cause hearing, is a review hearing before a Family Court Commissioner in which a PFA Respondent would need to show cause as to why he/she has or has not followed through with the recommendations of the DVCC certified agency. If the Respondent has followed through with the recommendations of the DVCC certified treatment, the Respondent shall provide the appropriate documentation at the PFA Rule to Show Cause Hearing.

Who is required to appear for the PFA Rule to Show Cause Hearing?

The Respondent is required to appear for the PFA Rule to Show Cause Hearing with any documentation he/she may have from the DVCC certified agency regarding an evaluation and or recommended treatment.

Notice will be sent to the Petitioners for the PFA rule to show cause hearing. Petitioners are welcome to attend the hearing **but are not required** to appear for the hearing.