



# PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDERS & COMPLIANCE

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

<https://courts.delaware.gov/family>

## Family Court Contact Information

### New Castle County

Family Court  
Attn: PFA Unit  
Leonard L. Williams  
Justice Center  
500 N. King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
302-255-0300

Email:

FCNCDVCert@delaware.gov

### Kent County

Family Court  
Attn: PFA Unit  
400 Court Street  
Dover, DE 19901  
302-672-1000

Email:

FCKCDVCert@delaware.gov

### Sussex County

Family Court  
Attn: PFA Unit  
22 The Circle  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
302-855-7400

Email:

FCSCDVCert@delaware.gov

### Who are the Domestic Violence Coordination Council (DVCC) certified treatment providers?

- Child Inc.
- Turning Point at People's Place
- Dover Air Force Base (for military and dependents)

### How much does it cost for a Domestic Violence (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 or 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 Order have **TWO WEEKS** to contact and sign up with one of the DVCC Certified programs listed above. The DVCC Certified program will inform the Court if a respondent has or has not signed up within two weeks of the PFA Order. The program will also inform the Court of recommended treatment and the anticipated start and end date of that treatment. If the respondent is recommended for domestic violence treatment, the Court will continue to monitor the respondent's attendance until proof of completion is obtained.

### **Once I've completed my domestic violence counseling, whom do I notify?**

There are three ways that you can send your certificate of completion to the Court. You may send it by way of mail to Family Court in the county that ordered the treatment, you may physically bring your certificate to Family Court in the county that issued the Order, or you can scan and email your certificate to Family Court in the county that issued the Order. All three counties' addresses and emails are listed on the first page of this FAQ. **Please include your name and date of birth within the certificate of completion.**

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

The violation of an Order of Protection from Abuse is a crime. 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 or 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 or she may have from the DVCC certified agency regarding an evaluation and/or recommended treatment.

Notice will be sent to the Petitioner for the PFA Rule to Show Cause Hearing. Petitioners are welcome to attend the hearing **but are not required** to appear for the hearing.