

PFAD: The Protection from Abuse Database

An Overview for Court Personnel and Victim Services Staff



Objectives

Describe how to enter a Petition into PFAD

Explain how to create a good datasheet and the court's requirements

Summarize how to enter Temporary and Final Orders on PFAD Discuss solutions to common issues court personnel encounter on PFAD

PFAD Helpline: 717-545-6400 ext 3; pfad@pcadv.org



Requesting a PFAD Account

www.pfad.pa.gov



Login Request Account Help -

About PFAD

In October 1994, Governor Robert Casey signed into law Act 85, a bill providing extensive amendments to Pennsylvania's Protection From Abuse Act, which included the legislative mandate for a statewide protection order registry, operated by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP).

In May 1996, PCADV submitted to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), a concept paper and preliminary budget for a 3-year project to establish a Pennsylvania PFA Database. The information contained in those documents was subsequently included in PCCD's application for National Criminal History Improvement Program funding for Fiscal Year 1996. That funding was granted and the Protection From Abuse Database Project began in February 1997.

Since that time, PCADV has developed and implemented PFAD, an electronic statewide database. PFAD's mission is to establish and maintain a database that includes all PFA proceedings in the Commonwealth. It is a computer archival system designed to complement the operation of the Pennsylvania State Police Protection Order Registry.

This archival database automates the PFA process in the courts; provides critical statewide data for analysis by the courts and law enforcement; creates and disseminates the PSP Protection From Abuse Summary Data Sheet - information necessary for inclusion in the PSP Registry; and contains all standardized PFA forms approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as well as other forms necessary for protection from abuse cases. PFAD is currently working on developing and implementing electronic forms for Indirect Criminal Contempts. Records from PFAD are immediately available 24 hours a day/365 days a year to authorized users (includes courts, legal agencies and the private bar) via a SECURED Internet website.

Due to PFAD's experience in developing this web-based database, other states have requested technical assistance as they begin to launch their own databases.



_ogging In



WARNING! THIS SYSTEM CONTAINS GOVERNMENT DATA. UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO THIS SYSTEM AND SOFTWARE IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. All activities on this system may be recorded and monitored. Anyone using this system expressly consents to such monitoring and waives any expectation of privacy. Evidence of possible misconduct or abuse, to include use without authorization, use in excess of authorization, or prevention of authorized use, may be provided to appropriate officials for investigation and action under applicable Federal and State criminal and civil statutes.



Petitions

Creating a robust document



Start with the Petition

The system assigns cases a unique PFAD#; Enter the docket number carefully

PFAD validates your work as you go; cannot move forward without approval of previous entries

Best practice:

- File Petitions on PFAD
- Petition not required to be entered into PFAD

Create New Case

Select an order below to create a new case with. Note that depending on the type of order you select (traditional, sexual violence, intimidation), only those types of orders can be added to the case in the future.

Protection from Abuse Orders

Petition
Temporary Order
Final Order
Petition for Civil Contempt
ICC Summary
Indirect Criminal Contempt Complaint
Indirect Criminal Contempt Private Complaint
ICC Order of Disposition



Attachment A

The list of weapons a Petitioner believes the Defendant possesses

Can be found on the Add Order page

A new Attachment A should be filed with each subsequent order to allow the list of weapons to be edited by the court

Add Order to Case

Back to Order Summary

Temporary Order

from the Temporary Order filed on 7/28/2015 Continued Temporary Order

Amended Temporary Order from the Temporary Order filed on 7/28/2015

Final Order

Final Order from the Temporary Order filed on 7/28/2015

Order To Dismiss

Order To Dismiss from the Temporary Order filed on 7/28/2015





Attachment A from the Temporary Order filed on 7/28/2015

Attachment A from the Final Order edited on 10/20/2021

PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Workflow

The workflow for filing PFAD petitions mirrors the PFA legal process and requires entry in a specific order; For instance, you cannot file a petition after submitting a temporary or final order



Workflow Issues





Supplemental Information

Creating a good datasheet



Supplemental Information



Names

Entering Names

No punctuation other than hyphen

No Spaces (first names)

Deleting Names

面

Step 1: Delete or Remove

Step 2: Save and Exit

PFAD Helpline: 717-545-6400 ext 3; pfad@pcadv.org



Other Information (Identifiers)

Race	Weight
American India or Alaskan Native Asian or Pacific Islander Black White Unknown	Maximum Weight in PFAD is 499 lbs



Date of Birth (DOB)

Why?	Officer safety! Law enforcement needs to identify individuals before making contact, so the more information, the better
Unknown Defendant DOB	Don't use a generic DOB
Process for unknown DOB?	Leave it blank and put that DOB is unknown into Misc. on the Supplemental Information page



Datasheets

Once an order is filed at the Prothonotary's office, a **datasheet** must be created by the Prothonotary; The datasheet, along with the Order, must be sent to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) to be entered into the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN)

PDATE	VACAT	ED	CANCELLED				PROTEC	CTION OF
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TIFF'S NAME (PLN): (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE:) TEST,TESTDP				PLAINTIFF'S SEX (PLX): (PL F		PLAINTIFF'S RAG (PLR):	CE F	
TIFF'S ADDRESS (PLA):				PLAINTIFF'S CITY (PLC): PLAINTIFF'S ST. (PLS):		TE F		
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CARS, MARKS, TATTOOS

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SOC):

3, MARKS, TATTOOS (SMT): SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS

L SECURITY NUMBER

(SMT):

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SOC)



More on datasheets

- The Prothonotary's office must file completed PFA Orders in PFAD and transfer datasheets to the PSP registry within **<u>24 hours</u>** of entry
- It is crucial to ensure that the datasheet has no errors before entering it into the PSP registry; If <u>a datasheet is rejected, its data will not be</u> <u>uploaded into CLEAN</u>, and it will not be possible for law enforcement to confirm the existence of a protection order for enforcement purposes
- To check a datasheet's status, go to the <u>"Datasheets"</u> Tab on the PFAD Homepage, then select <u>"Search Datasheets;"</u> The search defaults to your county; Enter the date range for the transferred datasheets; A datasheet and order must be filed at the Prothonotary's office and sent to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) to be entered into CLEAN



Datasheet Status Colors on PFAD

Red status: The order has not been accepted into the registry; To fix this, the county filer needs to correct and resubmit the datasheet

Yellow status: The order is still being processed; However, if the Yellow status lasts for more than 24 hours, it's recommended to resubmit a new datasheet

Green status: the order was successfully entered into the CLEAN system, and no action is required

Contact information for red and yellow datasheets: <u>RA-Clean@pa.gov</u>, <u>pfad@pcadv.org</u> or 717-545-6400 x3



Using the Search Function

FRD Protection From Abuse Database	Choose Role	Cases -	Reports	Help -	Logout
Production in the second		Search Cases Create New Case			
Welcome Steve Griffith (Local Law Enforcem	ent) from PCADV	in {PFAD} Co	ounty		
Notifications					

Update to PFAD for HB2060

In October 2018, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 79 which made significant changes to the Protection Fre created new procedures regarding the relinquishment of firearms, ammunition, and other weapons by the de Act, firearms could be relinquished to a family member, friend, or county Sheriff's Office and defendants were relinquishment order. Effective April 10, 2019, Act 79 provides the following changes: • Firearms can no long • Firearms, ammunition, and other weapons can be relinquished to ANY law enforcement agency, Sheriff's O licensed commercial armory; • Firearms, ammunition, and other weapons must be relinquished within 24 hou or the service of a Temporary Protection Order, unless special circumstances exist. To facilitate this statutory



Case Search

- When searching for a case, the best way to do it is by using the Docket #
- If you can't find the case, try changing the county as it may have been filed in a different jurisdiction
- Note down the PFAD# that is generated by the system; This allows you to view a petition that you didn't create
- You can also search for a case using the names of both the Plaintiff and Defendant, the county, and the date it was last edited

Case Search

Plaintiff	First	Tester
Defendant	First	Last
Name Soundex	(Note: Searches may be slower)	
PFAD #	ex: XX########X	
Docket #		
Docket Wildcard	(Note: Match any part)	
County	{PFAD}	
Sort Order	- Select -	
	Search Cancel Clear Search	



Selecting A Case

	Search Cancel Clear Search		
PFAD: XE006134288J, Docket: 1 , Co	unty: {PFAD}		
Jane Tester (Plaintiff)	James Tester (Defendant)	Filed 11/19/2015	View Case
PFAD: YG006874958M, Docket: Test1	, County: {PFAD}		
Susan Testube (Plaintiff)	Bart Testube (Defendant)	Filed 2/15/2018	View Case



Selecting a Document

	Search Again Add Order			
Docket # 2023-01172 PFAD # RR009091796R	Most Recent Effective Order Temporary Order Expires on a date TBD, Last Edited or	Filed 12 second(s) ago		
County {PFAD} Plaintiff	Temporary Order Effective on 1/17/2023	Active	Filed on 1/17/2023	View Order View Snapshot
Shania Lee Tucker Defendant George J Twitty				Delete Send Datasheet
Supplemental Information	Petition	Filed	Filed on 1/17/2023	View Order View Snapshot
Change Docket Number				Delete



Creating Orders

Temporary and Final PFA Orders



Adding Orders

Fab Protection From Abuse Database

Choose Role Cases - Datasheets - Administrative -

Reports

Help -

Logout

Add Order to Case

Back to Order Summary

Temporary Order Temporary Order from the Petition

Final Order

Final Order from the Temporary Order created on 1/9/2023

Order To Dismiss

Order To Dismiss from the Temporary Order created on 1/9/2023

Attachment A

Attachment A from the Petition edited on 1/9/2023

Attachment A from the Temporary Order created on 1/9/2023



Updated Firearms Info





Originating Agency Identifier (ORI)

To make sure that the defendant surrenders their weapons, we need to identify the agencies responsible for this task; These agencies must have primary jurisdiction in both the plaintiff's **AND** defendant's areas of residence; The Prothonotary or the agency responsible for entering orders into PFAD is responsible for selecting the agencies that will be notified

□ 13	A certified reside and	copy of this order shall be p any other agency specified	provided to the sheriff or polic hereafter:	lice department where the Plaintiff and Defendant	
	County	{PFAD} •			
	ORI	SELECT	•		
		Add			
	ORI Na	me	Cus ORI	ustom Delete RI	
	ORI Na	me	Cus ORI	ustom Delete RI	



Temporary and Final Orders

When checking the Relief boxes in #6, as shown on the last slide, PFAD will show the following prompt when you go to file the order

It will include the 24hour period to relinquish; This period is only adjustable by court order

File Order

WARNING: Once the document is "FILED", it cannot be edited. Are you sure you want to file this document?

Cancel the Filing Process					
Edi	t Unfiled Order Back To	Case Histo	bry		
File the Order					
Enter a date and time:	3/21/2019 8:00 AM		Set to Today and Now		
Number of Hours to Relinquish Weapons: 24					
	File this Do	cument			

PFAD Helpline: 717-545-6400 ext 3; pfad@pcadv.org



Temporary and Final Orders

The summary page will now show that the Defendant has 24 hours to relinquish weapons

	Search Again Add Or	der	
Docket # dau00111	Temporary Order	Active	Filed on 3/20/2019
DEAD #	Effective on 3/20/2019	uruiah Waanana: 24	
	Number of Hours to Relin	iquisit weapons: 24	
KD006486604V	PSP Datasheet	PRIMARY CLEAN SCREEN	3/20/2019
County		SUCCESSFUL	
{PFAD}			
	Attachment A	Filed	Filed on
Plaintiff			3/20/2019
Snap Shot			
Defendant			
Slap Shot			



ORI Continued

Once the Prothonotary files the Order, the selected police jurisdiction(s) will receive a notification immediately Law enforcement and sheriffs are responsible for entering a *Receipt of Firearms Relinquishment* into the PFAD system

If a police department receives a non-compliance notice, they must investigate whether any weapons were surrendered to the serving officers



Non-Compliance Notice

WEAPON RELINQUISHMENT ORDERED COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY BELOW DATE

DEFENDANT: Joe Smith

PLAINTIFF: Joann Smith

Protection From Abuse Order #xxxxxx has been entered into the Protection From Abuse Database (PFAD).

This order requires the Defendant Joe Smith to relinquish firearms, ammunition and/or other weapons to the sheriff, the appropriate law enforcement agency or authorized third party for safekeeping by April 21, 2020.

Any entity receiving the weapons from the Defendant should immediately enter them into PFAD using the Relinquish of Firearms Receipt (SP 4-411).

Assistance on how to access and use the Relinquish of Firearms Receipt (SP 4-411) form through PFAD can be found by going to: https://www.pfad.pa.gov/System/UserManual



Investigation Notice

INVESTIGATION REQUIRED: FAILURE TO RELIQUISH FIREARM/WEAPONS	The agency having jurisdiction where
DEFENDANT: Joe Smith	the Defendant resides must investigate
PLAINTIFF: Joan Smith	why the weapons have not been
	relinguished.

Protection From Abuse Order #xxxxx was entered into the Protection From Abuse Database (PFAD). This order required the Defendant Joe Smith to relinquish firearms, ammunition and/or other weapons to the sheriff, appropriate law enforcement agency, or authorized third party for safekeeping by September 11, 2019.

An investigation shall be initiated by the appropriate law enforcement agency having primary jurisdiction for a possible violation of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Section 6105, Persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms.

In accordance with Act 79 of 2018, the Plaintiff and Court shall also be notified by the appropriate law enforcement agency having primary jurisdiction that the Defendant failed to relinquish his/her firearms as required.

Assistance on how to update PFAD for Act 79 can be found by going to: https://www.pfad.pa.gov/System/UserManual

Your agency will continue to receive this message every 24 hours until the proper action is taken in PFAD.



Relinquishment Reports

- Can help determine what agencies are receiving noncompliance notices
- Can run a report for individual counties or statewide
- The ORI can be selected for one or all agencies in the selected county
- Date range searches last **update** to the order





Relinquishment Reports

What you will see:

- Total cases that require relinquishment
- The number of those cases that have weapons relinquishment receipts
- The number of those cases with no weapons relinquishment receipts
- The number of those cases with no action from law enforcement on firearms

PFAD Cases Cautioning Relinquishment									
From: 04/01/20	01/2019 To: 07/01/2019								
County	Cases Requiring Weapon Relinquishment	Cases Completed Weapon Relinquishment	Cases With No Relinquishment Receipt	Cases With No LE Action or No Relinquishment Receipt					
Dauphin	<u>153</u>	96	<u>57</u>	<u>41</u>					



A bit more on Relinquishment Reports

The report will provide access to information about the law enforcement agencies that the Prothonotary has identified to be notified for each PFA that requires weapons relinquishment

You can access more information on the case and add orders by clicking on the PFAD number

PFAD Helpline: 717-545-6400 ext 3; pfad@pcadv.org



Final Troubleshooting

How to fix some common issues court personnel encounter when using PFAD



Changing A Docket Number

	Search Again Add Order					
Docket # Test20161025A PFAD # AB006494354S	Most Recent Effective Order <u>Temporary Order</u> Expires on a date TBD, Last Edited or Filed 10/25/2016					
County {PFAD} Plaintiff Jane X Doe	Amended Temporary Order Effective on 8/16/2021	Unfiled	Edited on 8/17/2021	View Order View Snapshot Delete		
Defendant John X Doe Supplemental Information Change Docket Number	Notice of Hearing	Unfiled	Edited on 10/25/2019	View Order View Snapshot Delete		
Expunge Case	<u>Temporary Order</u> Effective on 10/6/2016	Active	Filed on 10/25/2016	View Order View Snapshot Delete Send Datasheet		
	Attachment A	Unfiled	Created on	View Order		



Mistakes Before Datasheet is Sent

Fixing a clerical mistake close to when the Order is filed BEFORE the Datasheet is sent:

- Duplicate Order (at the bottom of the Add Order Page)
- Make the change
- Refile the Order
- Send Datasheet

Indirect Criminal Contempt Complaint

Indirect Criminal Contempt Complaint from the Temporary Order filed on 10/25/2016

Indirect Criminal Contempt Private Complaint

Indirect Criminal Contempt Private Complaint from the Temporary Order filed on 10/25/2016

ICC Order of Disposition

New ICC Order of Disposition

Order Assessing Costs New Order Assessing Costs

 Duplicate Orders

 Temporary Order
 filed on 10/25/20

 Amended Temporary Order
 last edited on 8/17/2021

PFAD Helpline: 717-545-6400 ext 3; pfad@pcadv.org



Fixing Mistakes Later

If it is a change to add or update information at a later date:

- Add Order
- Click "Amended Order "
- Choose the Type of Order (temp or final)
- Make the change
- File the Order

Indirect Criminal Contempt Complaint

Indirect Criminal Contempt Complaint from the Temporary Order filed on 10/25/2016

Indirect Criminal Contempt Private Complaint Indirect Criminal Contempt Private Complaint from the Temporary Order filed on 10/25/2016

ICC Order of Disposition

New ICC Order of Disposition

Order Assessing Costs
New Order Assessing Costs



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Extended Orders

I don't get an option to send a datasheet

• To proceed with the order, make sure that the "date filed" is set after the effective date of the previous order

I received an error message requesting the identity of the police department responsible for investigating a defendant's non-compliance with firearms regulations

• Check "amended" and "extended" in Duplicate Order to view all PFA options, including ORI; Verify and update ORI

I can't find the "Custody" section in the error message

• To access additional options, simply click on "amended" and "extended" buttons located on the order



Extended Orders

TEMPORARY PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDER

Amended Order
Continued Order

Plaintiff Information

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS O PENNSYLVANIA

NO. 2023-0117



Changing a Party's name



The resulting datasheet will automatically include the new name If it is an alternate name, go to "Supplemental Information" and add the name as an ALIAS



Expungements

Expungement of particular *ex parte* PFA records is permitted by case law

Expungement of the records will be by court order

Prothonotary will complete the expungement Please get in touch with PCADV if you need to delete PFA records and do not possess the authority to do so in PFAD

PFAD Helpline: 717-545-6400 ext 3; pfad@pcadv.org

Questions? Direct helpline: pfad@pcadv.org 717-545-6400 Ext. 3

PSP Help Desk: **877-777-3375**





Thank You!

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