

What's the difference between a PFA order entered after a hearing and a PFA order entered by consent?

Hearing ≠ Consent



<p>Petitioner must present evidence that Respondent committed abuse against the Petitioner or the Petitioner's minor child.</p>
<p>If abuse is not proven, the petition is dismissed and there is no PFA order.</p>
<p>The PFA order can be used in future hearings as evidence that abuse occurred.</p>
<p>The Commissioner decides the conditions to be included in the PFA order for how long it will be in effect.</p>



<p>No evidence needs to be presented. The Petitioner and the Respondent have agreed to the issuance of a PFA order.</p>
<p>A PFA order issues and the Court does not address whether or not abuse occurred.</p>
<p>The PFA order cannot be used as evidence of abuse in any future hearings.</p>
<p>The Petitioner and the Respondent agree to the conditions in PFA order and how long it will be in effect.</p>

But, a PFA order after a hearing and a PFA order by consent are **EXACTLY the same** in these ways:

Hearing = Consent



<p>Respondent can be arrested and incarcerated for violating the order,</p>
<p>Respondent cannot possess firearms or ammunition, and</p>
<p>Petitioner and the Respondent cannot agree to revoke or ignore the order but must file a motion and attend a hearing.</p>