

How long does a PFA Order last?

Temporary Orders

The initial duration of a **temporary ex parte order** is up to 15 days.

The order may be extended to up to 30 days if the PFA trial is rescheduled:

- To accomplish service of process on the Respondent, or
- At the request of a party for good cause.

Permanent Orders

The “protective” provisions of a PFA order by **consent**, **default** or **after a full hearing** can last up to 2 years and sometimes longer. This includes:

- No further abuse;
- Stay 100 yards away from petitioner, residence and workplace;
- No contact (communication) of any kind; and
- No firearms, ammunition, or deadly weapons.

The protective provisions may be ordered for **more than 2 years** upon **consent** of the parties, or upon a finding of **aggravating circumstances** including:

Physical Injury
Use of a firearm
Past DV convictions
Repeated violations of prior PFAs

Any circumstance where there is
an immediate and ongoing
danger to the petitioner or any
member of his/her household.

“Ancillary” provisions in a PFA order **are limited to 1 year**. These include:

- Custody of and Visitation with children;
- Payment of Support; and
- Temporary Possession of homes and personal property.

Extension and early termination

A PFA order of less than 2 years may be extended by the court after a hearing but can only exceed 2 years upon a finding of **aggravating circumstances**.

A PFA order may be modified or rescinded by the court upon the request of either party but only after a hearing. The reconciliation of the parties has no effect on the duration, validity or enforceability of a PFA order.