

The YWCA Wise Options program provides services for women, men and children; victims of Domestic Violence, sexual assault, and any other violent crimes.

**Services Include:**

- 24 hour crisis hotline
- Emergency shelter and emergency transportation.
- Hospital & Court accompaniment
- Advocacy
- Assistance in obtaining Protection From Abuse Orders (PFA's)
- Individual & Group counseling for adults and children
- Community Education Programming



The YWCA Northcentral PA is a program partner of the Lycoming County United Way.



**The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.**



Wise Options is devoted to empowering individuals, redefining the rights of the oppressed, and educating communities about peace, justice, freedom, dignity and equality for all.

**24/7 Crisis Hotline  
1-800-326-8483**

The YWCA Northcentral PA offers free and confidential services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Trained staff and volunteers provide immediate support and information to individuals fleeing violence or experiencing homelessness.

**YWCA NORTHCENTRAL PA**

**PROTECTION  
From ABUSE  
ORDERS**

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
northcentral pa



**YWCA Northcentral PA  
815 W. Fourth St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
1-800-326-8483**

**[www.ywcawilliamsport.org](http://www.ywcawilliamsport.org)**

## What is Abuse?

According to the Protection From Abuse Act, the definition of abuse is ANY of the following:

- Attempting to, or intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury, serious bodily injury, rape, spousal sexual assault, or involuntary deviate sexual intercourse with or without a deadly weapon.
- Placing another, by physical threat, in fear of serious bodily injury;
- False imprisonment, as defined under the crimes code;
- Physically or sexually abusing minor children; and/or
- Stalking a person and placing the person in reasonable fear of bodily injury.

## Who Qualifies For a Protection Order?

You can file for a protection order if the person who has or is trying to harm you is:

- or was your spouse or former spouse
- the parent of your child
- your child;
- your current or former sexual or intimate partner;
- your parent; or
- related to you by blood or marriage.

If the abused person is a minor, then a parent, adult household member, or guardian ad litem can file on behalf of the child.

## What is a Protection From Abuse Order?

A civil court order, for victims of Domestic Violence, ordering the abuser to refrain from harming the victim. An order (PFA) can last for up to 36 months.

## What Relief Could You Receive with a PFA?

A Protection From Abuse Order can:

- Order the abuser to not abuse, harass, threaten, or stalk you or your relatives.
- Order the abuser to stay away from the house or apartment where you live; evict and/or exclude even if it is also the abuser's home.
- Order the abuser to stay away from your school or your place of employment.
- Prohibit the abuser from having any guns or gun permits.
- Order the abuser to pay you for losses resulting from abuse; including medical bills and lost wages.
- Order the abuser to attend a batterer's counseling program, drug and alcohol counseling and allow the judge to grant any other relief deemed necessary to bring an end to the abusive situation.
- Give temporary custody to the abused parent.
- Order the abuser to pay spousal and child support.

## What Is The Cost To Obtain A PFA?

There is no cost for victims.

## Will My Protection Order Be Enforced In Another County?

Yes. The Pennsylvania State Police maintains a registry of all Protection From Abuse Orders issued throughout the Commonwealth. The police will enforce a valid protection order that is issued in any county in Pennsylvania. PFAs are enforceable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Tribal Islands, United States territories, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

## What Happens If The Abuser Violates the PFA?

You should immediately call 911 and report the violation. An abuser charged with the contempt of a PFA can face charges for the acts committed that were in violation of the order. The court can find the abuser in contempt and sentence him or her to prison for up to 6 months and/or fine the abuser \$300 to \$1000.

## What Help Is Available At Night, On Weekends, or Holidays?

In an emergency, if you have been assaulted, contact your local police department. If you are in immediate and present danger of abuse, you may be eligible for an emergency PFA issued through the District Magistrate with the assistance of Wise Options.

**For more information about filing for a Protection From Abuse Order or to set up an appointment, call the Wise Options 24/7 Crisis Hotline at :  
1-800-326-8483**