

The Advocate

The Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center Newsletter

Is a protection order right for me?

Cherrie Holder

PFA/PFS Advocate

Protection from Abuse (PFA) and/or Protection from Stalking (PFS) orders can offer some safety benefits for a survivor. These two orders can be a great tool for a victim to have a court document instructing their abuser to stay away and have no further contact with them. Although there are some benefits that can be provided by these orders, there are some things that a survivor may need to consider before applying for a protection order.

What is a protection order?

A protection order is a civil legal action that requires the offending party to cease further contact with the petitioning party. The offending party has caused bodily harm, threatens to cause bodily harm or is stalking/harassing the petitioner, causing fear for their safety. The offender's violation of this order may result in a criminal arrest.

How do I obtain an order?

The next step is to file and ensure the survivor qualifies for a protection order. There are different qualifications for a PFA and PFS order.

To qualify for a protection from stalking (PFS) order, there must be at least two separate incidents of threats to cause bodily harm, excessive harassing phone calls, and/or more than two incidents of the offender showing up at the survivors home or place or work to intimidate and harass. The petitioner does not have to be in an intimate relationship with the offender, nor does the survivor have to be related or reside with the offender.

To qualify for a protection from abuse (PFA) order, there must have been physical harm that has occurred or serious threat to physically harm the victim. For example, the offender has raised their fist as if to attempt to hit the victim. Additionally, the petitioner is either in an intimate relationship with the offender or was in the past; the two parties have a child in common, and/or they currently live in the same residence together. If a child or children are involved, there are special requirements when filing on behalf of a child.



Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center

Breaking the Cycle!



Navigating the criminal justice system

In this month's lunch and learn participants will learn more about the criminal justice process. The criminal justice system can be difficult for survivors and families to navigate and a very stressful time for all involved. WASAC provides support for survivors and families via court advocacy. Time will be available for questions. Objectives will include:

- Learn the steps of reporting a crime.
- What happens in a detective interview.
- Learn the process of the criminal justice system including District Attorney meetings, preliminary hearings, continuances, jury or bench trials and sentencing.

Hosted by: Sarah Eastman-Olivas, Court Advocate
& Ronnie Wills, Court Advocate.

November 29th
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: 355 N Waco, Suite 100, 67202

What are some barriers to qualify?

For survivors of sexual assault, protection orders may present unique barriers. For example, the survivor may not have nor had in the past, an intimate relationship with the offender. Also, the survivor may not reside with the perpetrator. As a result, the sexual assault survivor will need to have two separate incidents of contact to qualify for a protection order. The sexual assault would be one incident.

What are additional things to consider before filing for an order?

When working with survivors please keep in mind that protection orders are tools to help with safety. Survivors are the experts in their lives and only they know if a PFA or PFS will assist in their safety. A protection order could increase their risk of harm depending on the circumstances and personality of the offender; this should be discussed in detail when safety planning with a survivor.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you need additional assistance, WASAC has a PFA/PFS advocate who is available to assist with any questions or concerns relating to protection orders. You can contact family court services at 316-660-5290 and request to speak with Cherrie, WASAC PFA/PFS advocate. You can also contact our office at 316-263-0185.

Protection
Orders





Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center



November 11: WASAC office closed

If you need assistance contact our
24-hour hotline 316-263-3002

Office hours resume Monday, November 14

November 17: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Protective Parenting Program
(court approved)

Certificate of attendance provided.

November 29: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

WASAC Lunch and Learn

Navigating the Criminal Justice System

Certificate of attendance provided.

December 1: 7:00 p.m.

Bitchy Bingo a WASAC Benefit

Rain Cafe 518 E. Douglas

December 27: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

WASAC Lunch and Learn

Practicing Self Care

While Caring for Others

Free & Confidential

Call us for more information

316-263-0185

**Want more
WASAC News?**



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Visit our website

www.wichitasac.com



Looking for a FUN way to support your favorite non-profit organization?

Join us for our last Bitchy Bingo of 2016 to benefit the



Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center

Thursday, December 1st - 7 PM

Bingo cards are \$20.

All proceeds will benefit the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center.

Reservations are recommended to guarantee you'll have a place to sit. Call 316-261-9000 to reserve your spot!

Rain Café and Lounge
518 E Douglas, Wichita



This event features some adult content & humor.



FANTASTIC PRIZES



FUN PEOPLE



GREAT FOOD & DRINKS



Wichita Area
Sexual Assault
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THE RECONNECT PROGRAM

The Reconnect Program teaches basic massage therapy principles and techniques to sexual assault survivors and a trusted loved one. Massage therapy can help the survivor relearn how to receive and give healthy, healing touch to him/herself and others. This process aids in the reclaiming of the survivor's body, healing chronic pain, and reconnecting the mind and body into one functioning unit.

Beginner Class 1—Two Weekends

Friday, October 21, 2016 5:30-9:30 PM & Saturday, October 22, 2016 9 AM-4:30 PM
Friday, October 28, 2016 5:30-9:30 PM & Saturday, October 29, 2016 9 AM-4:30 PM

OR

Beginner Class 2—Two Weekends

Friday, November 4, 2016 5:30-9:30 PM & Saturday, November 5, 2016 9 AM-4:30 PM
Friday, November 11, 2016 5:30-9:30 PM & Saturday, November 12, 2016 9 AM-4:30 PM

The Reconnect Program is free to attend, but requires pre-registration.
SPACE IS VERY LIMITED!

**For questions or registration details, please contact:
Jackie at practicum@wichitasac.com or 316-263-0185.**



Wichita Area
Sexual Assault
Center

Sexual Assault Survivor Support Groups

Teen girls (13-17)

Every Tuesday
5:30-6:30 PM

Adult women (18+)

Every Tuesday
5:30-6:30 PM



Support groups at the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center are free, confidential, voluntary, and open to survivors at any point in their healing. The adult women and teen girl groups meet weekly and are open-ended. No appointment is necessary to participate. At this time, childcare is not available.

**Groups are held at 355 N Waco, Suite 100,
Wichita KS 67202.**

Check www.wichitasac.com for more group and workshop schedules!