



## PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ACTIONS DURING COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has declared a statewide judicial emergency. The Courts of Common Pleas throughout Pennsylvania have, in turn, issued various emergency orders. Pursuant to these emergency orders, public access to the courts has been significantly limited. However, you may still file a petition for protection from abuse and obtain a temporary protection from abuse order in any of the counties within the ten-county area serviced by Northwestern Legal Services.

Pursuant to the emergency orders issued by the Courts of Common Pleas, the courts are only addressing matters that are considered to be essential functions. Addressing a petition for protection from abuse is generally considered by the courts to be an essential function. However, certain courts within our service area may hold final hearings on such petitions later in time than normal unless there is an emergency.

You may contact the court administrator's office in the following counties at the following telephone numbers for the latest information regarding public access to the courts:

Erie: (814) 451-6307

Warren/Forest: (814) 728-3531

Crawford: (814) 333-7498

McKean: (814) 887-5571

Mercer: (724) 662-3800

Elk/Cameron: (814) 776-6144

Venango: (814) 432-9606

Potter: (814) 274-9720

CALL NORTHWESTERN LEGAL SERVICES AT (800) 665-6957 OR APPLY ONLINE AT [WWW.NWLS.ORG](http://WWW.NWLS.ORG) TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE LEGAL HELP.