

*Please note, the following changes to Maine law are effective after the printing of this publication.*

- A minor child can now file a protection from abuse (PFA) complaint. A parent or other adult responsible for a minor child no longer must file a PFA on the minor's behalf.
- A person can file a PFA complaint against someone who has removed or tampered with a condom during a sexual act without that person's consent, or who has used coercive control against that person.
- A person can file a PFA complaint or a protection from harassment (PFH) complaint against someone who has threatened to share an intimate private image of that person.
- A plaintiff can ask the judge to prohibit the defendant from knowingly being within a specified distance of the plaintiff or being at a specific location.
- While a defendant may ask the court to modify a PFA order, a defendant cannot ask the court to terminate/extinguish an order; only the plaintiff can ask the court to terminate/extinguish a PFA order before its expiration date.
- A plaintiff may ask the court to extend a PFA order (file a motion to extend) after it has expired if the court finds (1) there was a good cause as to why the plaintiff did not file the motion to extend before the expiration of the protection order, and (2) the late filing was made within a reasonable amount of time given the circumstances of the case.