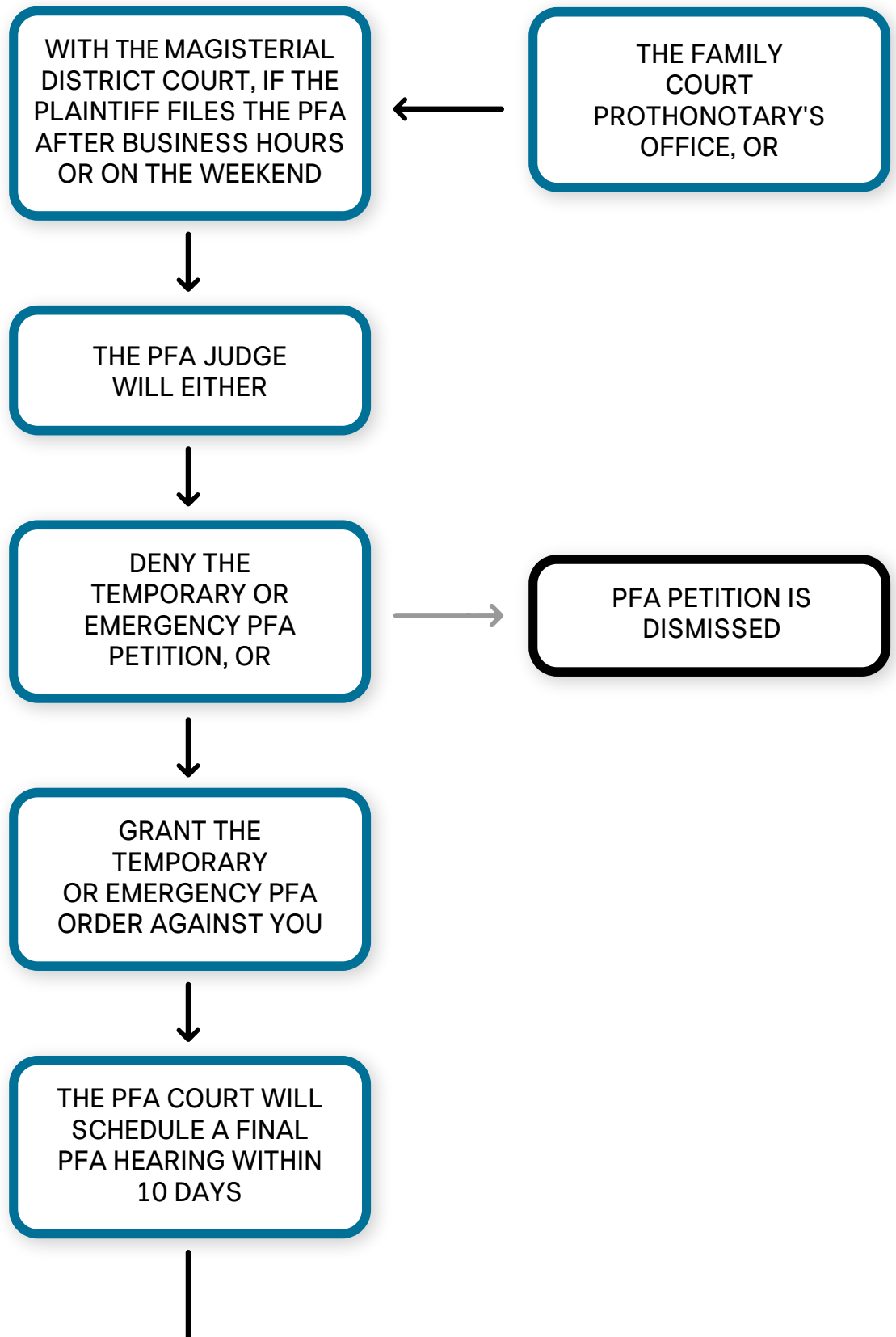


PROTECTION FROM ABUSE

FLOWCHART

THE PLAINTIFF FILES FOR A TEMPORARY OR EMERGENCY PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDER AGAINST THE DEFENDANT AT



↓

THE SHERIFF WILL
SERVE YOU WITH THE
PFA PETITION OR

↓

THE LOCAL POLICE WILL SERVE
YOU WITH THE PFA PAPERS IF
THE PFA INCLUDES AN
EVICTION ORDER

↓

YOU WILL BE TEMPORARILY
EVICTED FROM YOUR RESIDENCE IF
YOU CURRENTLY RESIDE WITH THE
PLAINTIFF AND THE PLAINTIFF
REQUESTS EVICTION

↓

YOU MAY TEMPORARILY LOSE
CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILDREN IF THE
PLAINTIFF HAS ACCUSED YOU OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE AGAINST THE
CHILDREN

↓

YOU MUST TURN OVER YOUR
FIREARMS TO THE POLICE OR
SHERIFF WITHIN 24 HOURS OF
SERVICE OF THE PFA PETITION IF
YOU POSSESS WEAPONS

↓

IF THE DEFENDANT IS THE VICTIM OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE BY THE PLAINTIFF, THE
DEFENDANT MAY FILE FOR AN EMERGENCY
OR TEMPORARY PFA AGAINST THE PLAINTIFF
(REFERRED TO AS CROSS-FILING)

↓

THE PFA COURT MAY DISMISS YOUR
PETITION, OR:

→

PFA CASE IS CLOSED

↓

GRANT A TEMPORARY
PFA ORDER AGAINST
THE PLAINTIFF AND

SCHEDULE A PFA FINAL HEARING
AGAINST THE PLAINTIFF (IN SOME
CASES, THE JUDGE MAY DENY THE
TEMPORARY PFA ORDER BUT
SCHEDULE A PFA FINAL HEARING
AGAINST THE PLAINTIFF)

YOU CAN REPRESENT YOURSELF OR
HIRE A PFA LAWYER TO DEFEND
YOU AT THE FINAL PFA HEARING

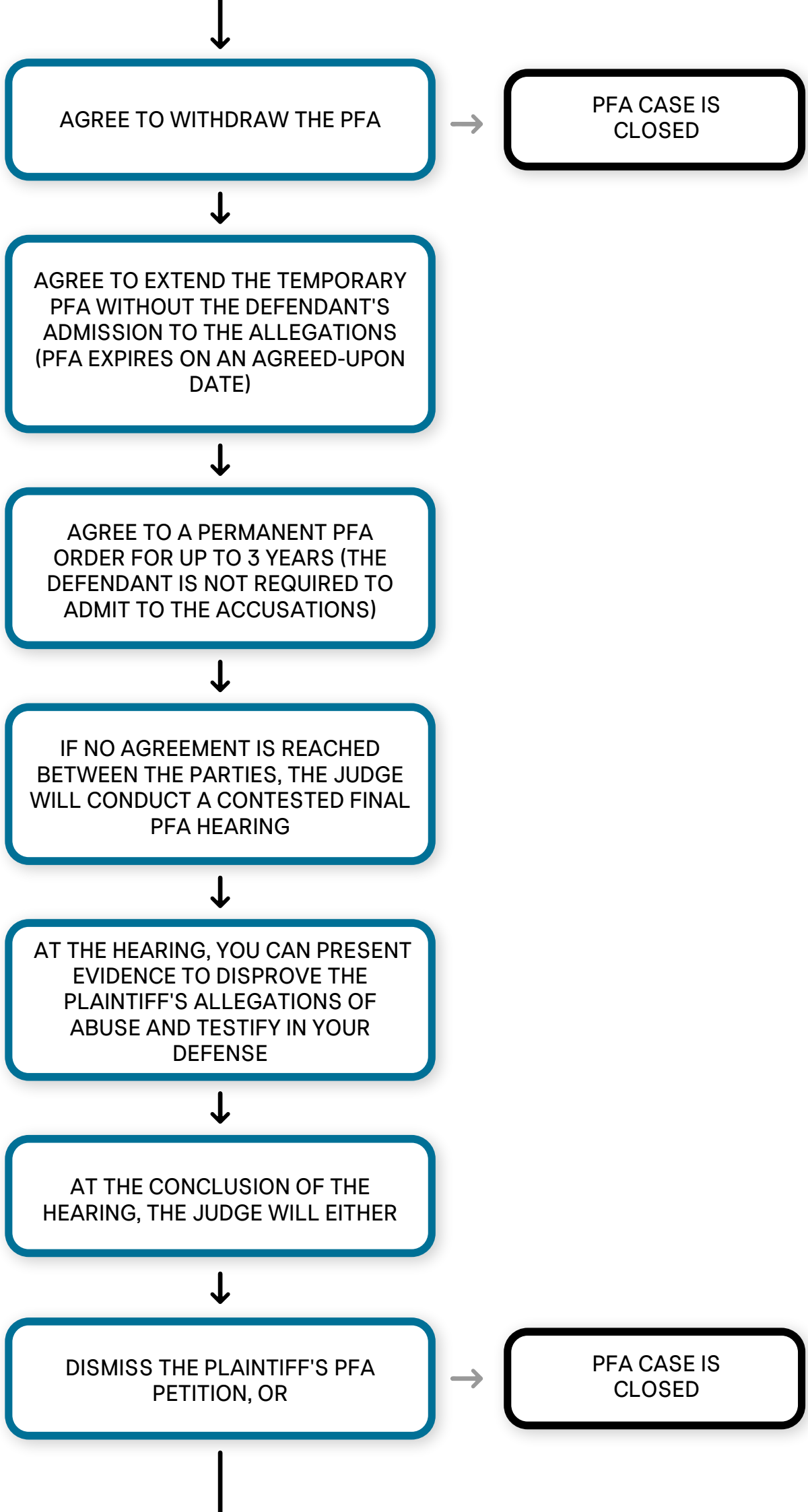
YOU APPEAR AT THE PFA FINAL
HEARING IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
COMMON PLEAS

IF THE PLAINTIFF DOES NOT APPEAR
AT THE FINAL PFA HEARING

PFA CASE IS THROWN
OUT

IF THE PLAINTIFF APPEARS, THE
JUDGE MAY AGREE TO CONTINUE
THE CASE AT THE DEFENDANT'S
REQUEST, OR

THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DEFENDANT
MAY



AGREE TO WITHDRAW THE PFA

PFA CASE IS
CLOSED

AGREE TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY
PFA WITHOUT THE DEFENDANT'S
ADMISSION TO THE ALLEGATIONS
(PFA EXPIRES ON AN AGREED-UPON
DATE)

AGREE TO A PERMANENT PFA
ORDER FOR UP TO 3 YEARS (THE
DEFENDANT IS NOT REQUIRED TO
ADMIT TO THE ACCUSATIONS)

IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED
BETWEEN THE PARTIES, THE JUDGE
WILL CONDUCT A CONTESTED FINAL
PFA HEARING

AT THE HEARING, YOU CAN PRESENT
EVIDENCE TO DISPROVE THE
PLAINTIFF'S ALLEGATIONS OF
ABUSE AND TESTIFY IN YOUR
DEFENSE

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE
HEARING, THE JUDGE WILL EITHER

DISMISS THE PLAINTIFF'S PFA
PETITION, OR

PFA CASE IS
CLOSED

IF THE COURT CONCLUDES THAT THE PLAINTIFF HAS PROVEN BY A PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE COMMITTED ABUSE, THE JUDGE WILL

GRANT A PERMANENT PFA ORDER FOR UP TO 3 YEARS

IN ADDITION, THE JUDGE MAY GRANT OTHER RELIEF PERMITTED UNDER THE PFA ACT SUCH AS

TEMPORARY CHILD CUSTODY
TEMPORARY CHILD SUPPORT
TEMPORARY SPOUSAL SUPPORT
EVICTION FROM THE JOINT RESIDENCE
MANDATORY FINE
RELINQUISHMENT OF ALL FIREARMS

IF THE TEMPORARY PFA EXTENSION EXPIRES WITHOUT ANY VIOLATIONS, THE DEFENDANT MAY PETITION THE COURT FOR EXPUNGEMENT OF THE PFA RECORDS

THE PLAINTIFF MAY PETITION THE COURT TO WITHDRAW THE PFA AT ANY TIME AFTER THE JUDGE ORDERS A TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT PFA ORDER

ANY PERMANENT PFA ORDER WILL END ON THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE PFA PETITION IF THERE ARE NO PFA VIOLATIONS

PFA CASE IS CLOSED