



EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER

An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) is one way to protect someone you care about from harming themselves or others with firearms. Before and during times of crisis, ERPOs can help you intervene to keep the people you care about safe.

- An ERPO is a civil order that allows **a family or household member** or a member of law enforcement to petition a judge to restrict individual possession and purchase of firearms when **you worry that an individual's behavior** indicates they might be at substantial risk of harming themselves or others.
- ERPOs are **an effective tool to prevent suicide**. One study found that for every 10 to 20 ERPOs granted, 1 suicide was prevented. ERPOs may also be useful for preventing mass shootings, homicides, and intimate partner shootings.



*"The Extreme Risk Protection Order? We may never know [if it worked], but **I believe if we did not do it many lives could have been lost.** We are always telling ourselves after seeing the news with mass shootings and/or a family dead headline, 'what if we could prevent this and/or get that person help?' I believe we did just do that."*

– ERPO petitioner, family member of respondent

WHY USE AN ERPO

ERPOs can keep at-risk loved ones safe from a suicide attempt or an attempt to harm others with a firearm.

HOW TO USE AN ERPO

1. You can file a temporary ERPO (also called an ex parte order) petition at the county clerk's office at the county's superior court, which lasts 14 days or until first hearing.
2. You can also ask your health care provider for help, and they can tell law enforcement about the situation to get assistance. You can also contact law enforcement directly.
3. A judge will determine if a temporary ERPO is needed. This most often occurs on the same day you file the petition.
4. If approved, the order will be granted. Law enforcement will enforce the order to the respondent and remove firearms from the home.
5. The final ERPO hearing is held to decide if a full ERPO is needed. The respondent may challenge petition at this time.
6. If granted, the ERPO will be in effect for one year. The respondent will not be able to be in possession of nor purchase any new firearms.