

# EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE ORDERS:

A Health Intervention to Reduce Gun Violence



# What is an Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO)?

An ERPO is a civil court-issued order that prohibits people found to be dangerous to themselves or others from temporarily purchasing or possessing a firearm, rifle, or shotgun.

## Who can Petition in Maryland?

- Family Members
- Law enforcement
- Health Care Professional (physician, psychologist, clinical social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing, psychiatric nurse practitioner, licensed clinical marriage or family therapist, or health officer or designee of a health officer who has examined the individual)

## What type of gun violence will ERPO prevent?

ERPOs can affect multiple types of gun violence, including suicide, interpersonal violence, mass shootings, and domestic violence.

*Limiting access to lethal means to individuals at risk of dying by suicide or interpersonal violence saves lives. Here are different strategies to limit access to lethal means:*

### Safe Storage

Unloaded firearms should be stored in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case. The storage location should be inaccessible to children. Gun locking devices can be used in conjunction with locked storage.

### Lethal Means Counseling

Assess whether a person at risk for suicide has access to a firearm or other lethal means, and work with them and their family/support system to limit their access:

- Store the firearms with a trusted friend or relative
- Gun shops and shooting ranges sometimes offer storage services.
- Local law enforcement (some states)
- If off-site storage is not an option: Lock the firearms and ensure the person at risk has no access to the key/combination.



## How to File an ERPO:

Complete an ERPO Petition; Petition for Extreme Risk Protective Order (DC-ERPO-001) and both addendum forms (DC- ERPO-001A and DC-ERPO-001B)

File the petition and return to court as instructed. File the petition with a District Court clerk, or file with a District Court commissioner.

If a temporary ERPO is issued guns are removed. Temporary orders will be in effect for up to 21 days.

While the temporary ERPO is in effect, a final ERPO hearing is held. The judge will decide whether to issue a final ERPO of up to one year