



Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)

In 2017, 39,773 people died of gun violence. Among those, 60% were suicides* and many others were women and families whose lives ended because of domestic violence. It is within this framework, that ERPOs are becoming law across the country so that we can remove guns, through a judicial process, from homes where there is a highly predictable outcome of death by gun violence either through suicide or domestic abuse. MA has a strong ERPO law in place.

What are Extreme Risk Protection Orders?

An ERPO from a judge suspends a person's license to possess or carry a gun.

Who is an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) issued against?

An ERPO is issued against a person who has a license to possess or carry a gun who may pose a risk of bodily injury to self or others by having in their control, ownership or possession of a firearm, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, stun gun, or ammunition. The person is called a "respondent."

Who can request an order? How long does it last?

A family or household member, the police department, anyone married or formerly married to respondent, anyone who is or was residing with the respondent in same household, is or was related by blood or marriage, has or is having a child with respondent, has been in a substantive dating relationship, or has been engaged to the respondent. The person seeking the order is the "petitioner." The Order is issued by a judge for one year or less and can be rescinded.

How do you file for an ERPO?

You must file a Petition for ERPO (FS-1), a Petitioner Confidential Information form (FS-2), and Respondent Information Form (FS-3). All forms are confidential and keep all participants informed at all points in the judicial process. During Court hours you can file at the District Court and after hours, at the police station in the town of the respondent. **

You can find these forms and the complete process online at:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/request-an-extreme-risk-protection-order>

*thetrace.org ... **All ERPO material sourced at Mass.gov