

## Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs): Helping families with a loved one in crisis



King County



City of Seattle

Partnership between the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Seattle City Attorney's Office and the Seattle City Attorney's Office

This information is provided by a collaboration between the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Seattle City Attorney's Office

### Are you worried about your loved one's access to firearms?

You may want to think about an ERPO if your loved one has shown one or more of the following **crisis behaviors**:

- Threats of harm to self/threats of suicide
- Threats to harm others
- Use and/or abuse of drugs or alcohol
- Domestic violence incidents
- Changes in behavior (crisis calls or new disturbance calls)
- Owns a firearm, has recently talked about buying a firearm or has recently bought a firearm when any of the behaviors above are occurring





## Who can apply for an extreme risk protection order?

Family and household members, including:

- Spouse or former spouse
- Parent or child
- Stepparent or stepchild
- Blood relation other than parent or child
- In-law
- Parent of a child in common
- Current or former dating relationship
- Current or former domestic partner
- Current or former cohabitant within the past year
- Current or former legal guardian

**OR**

**A law enforcement agency**

## What does an extreme risk protection order do?

- Temporarily removes firearms and concealed pistol license from someone who is **threat to themselves or others**.
- A judge will review the paperwork to see if your situation meets the legal standard for an ERPO.
- The person must **immediately** turn their firearms over to the police once they get a copy of the order.
- The person cannot own, possess, receive, access or purchase firearms (including concealed pistol license) for up to **one year**.
- You can ask the judge to keep the order in place for another year if you are still worried.
- The judge may order the person to do an evaluation to see if they need treatment for their mental health, or drug and alcohol abuse.

## It does not

- Stop the person from contacting you or coming to your home.
- It is **not a criminal charge**.

## Call the extreme risk protection order advocate for help with

- Learning more about ERPOs
- Filling out the paperwork for an ERPO petition
- Safety Planning
- Referrals to legal services
- Support during the court process
- Referrals to social services
- Coordination with other professionals

\*This information is **not** legal advice and any contact with the ERPO advocate is **not confidential**\*



206-263-9696



[ERPO@kingcounty.gov](mailto:ERPO@kingcounty.gov)

For ERPO documents, visit

[www.courts.wa.gov/forms](http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms)

\*Find the section for “protection orders” and click on “extreme risk protection order”\*

If your loved one is having a mental health or medical emergency

**Call 911**

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, contact the 988 **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**

**Call 988**

If you or someone you know needs support with their mental health, substance use, or emotional concerns, call the **Crisis Connections 24-hour Hotline**

**1-866-427-4747**

If you are afraid of someone and want them to stay away from you, call the **Protection Order Advocacy Program**

**206-477-1103 (Seattle)**

**206-477-3758 (Kent)**

If you think your loved one needs to be hospitalized for their mental health, call a DCR at **King County Crisis and Commitment Services**

**206-263-9200**

To get help for yourself while your loved one is struggling with their mental health, call **National Alliance on Mental Illness**

**206-783-9264**

For any other social services including housing, food, financial assistance, health information, etc.

**Call 211**

For more information about ERPOs, please visit the National ERPO Resource Center at:

**ERPO.org**