

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

2025



WHAT IS AN ERPO?

An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) is a civil court order available in Washington State. ERPOs are issued when there's reasonable cause to believe a person is at significant risk of harming themselves or others if they have access to firearms. A judicial officer will review the petition to see if the situation meets the legal standard for an ERPO. See [RCW 7.105](#) for ERPO statute(s).

Importantly, ERPOs can apply to both adults and minors, so they're a resource for addressing firearm injury risk across all age groups.

WHAT DOES AN ERPO DO?



If granted, requires immediate temporary removal of firearms, Concealed Pistol License(s) and prohibits obtaining others.



The person must immediately turn their firearms and CPLs over to law enforcement to hold while the order is in place.



The person cannot own, possess, receive, access, or purchase firearms, including CPL(s), for one year.



The judge may order the person to do a behavioral health evaluation.



If risks continue, the petitioner can request a renewal. The ERPO recipient is notified and can attend the hearing.

AN ERPO DOES NOT:



Stop the person from contacting you or coming to your home, or other personal restraints.



Filing an ERPO does not initiate criminal charges. However, the underlying behavior may prompt investigation.

WHEN TO CONSIDER AN ERPO

- Threats to harm self / Threats of suicide
- Threats to harm others / Threats of homicide
- Behaviors presenting imminent threat to self/others
- Pattern of acts/threats of violence in last 12 months
- Reckless use, display, or brandishing a firearm
- Malicious harassment or stalking behaviors
- Threats to workplaces, schools, or mass violence
- Owns, discussed buying, or recently purchased a firearm amid risk factors
- Refer to [RCW 7.105.215](#) for a full list of factors

WHO CAN APPLY FOR AN ERPO?

- Current or former spouse / domestic partner
- Parents of a child in common
- Current/former dating relationship
- Parent or child
- Stepparent or stepchild
- Grandparent or grandchild
- Parent's intimate partner or child
- Current or former cohabitants as roommates
- Person who is or has been legal guardian
- Related by blood or marriage
- Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies

WHERE TO FILE A PETITION

- Contact your local court for filing instructions
- Court clerks can provide forms
- Forms used statewide can also be found here: <https://www.courts.wa.gov/forms/>

CONTACT AN ADVOCATE FOR HELP WITH:

- Learning more about ERPOs
- ERPO form assistance and court support
- Safety planning and community referrals



ERPO@kingcounty.gov



(206) 263-9696