



EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS: A LIFE SAVING TOOL

There are few actions available in Pennsylvania when you are worried a close family member might hurt themselves or others with a firearm. Extreme Risk Protection Orders temporarily remove an individual's firearms so they can get the help they need before it is too late.

Through a civil, judicial process loved ones or law enforcement can petition the court to temporarily remove someone's firearm if they are in crisis. Judges look at potential risk including past dangerous behavior, clear threats, and past violent behavior. If an ERPO is issued, firearms can be removed immediately for up to a year, giving time for the individual to get help.

States across the country have ERPOs. Pennsylvania should be next.

HOW IT WORKS



ASKING FOR AN ERPO

Up to 80% of people considering suicide give some sign of their intentions. The proposed legislation in PA would allow close family members or law enforcement to request an Extreme Risk Protection Order, removing the most fatal method of suicide before someone hurts themselves or others.



THE TEMPORARY REMOVAL

An ex parte order removes firearms immediately because of imminent danger. The respondent's weapons are removed when notified of the order and then a judge will hear their arguments within 10 days. These are reserved for when the respondent is at risk of hurting themselves or others in the near future. The judge can also wait for a hearing if the risk is near. The ERPO can last up to a year.



THE RISKS EXAMINED


The judge can consider a range of evidence in determining if an ERPO is necessary. This includes recent acts of violence towards themselves or others, a history of dangerous behavior, past violent convictions, risky use of drugs or alcohol, reckless brandishing of firearms or recent acquisition of firearms. This and other evidence is used to determine whether an ERPO is necessary.

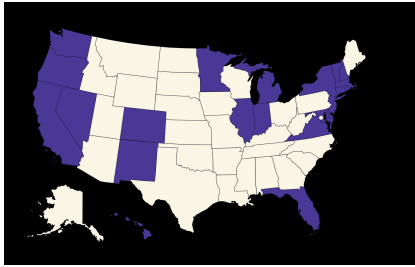


TAKE A STAND

To learn more visit www.ceasefirepa.org

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ERPOs save lives in 21 states. Pennsylvania should be next.

Scott Spoor owned a handgun for years. He would shoot milk jugs off of tree stumps while on vacation. But after he survived a suicide attempt with drugs and alcohol in January of 2009, his wife, Jennifer, hid the firearm from him. She was worried that the attempt would have ended much differently with a firearm.

After he received help and was doing better, she felt she had to return the firearm. Then, another crisis hit—and this time he used the gun to end his life. Jennifer then became an advocate for Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) because we should empower family members to their loved ones before it's too late.

Scott's story is not unique. Up to 80 percent of individuals considering suicide exhibit warning signs that they are considering suicide.

SAVING LIVES

Legislation proposed in Pennsylvania would create a process for family members or law enforcement to petition the courts for a civil (non-criminal) order to temporarily suspend a person's access to firearms, including removing any existing firearms for up to one year.



21

mass shootings were stopped by ERPOs in California over 3 years.



13.7%

reduction in suicide from Connecticut's ERPO law.



70%

Indiana ERPO cases listed suicidal ideation as the reason.



1/3

Nearly one-third of respondents received mental health and/or substance abuse treatment after ERPO



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