



**Extreme Risk Protection Orders
(ERPOs) Save Lives**
****DID YOU KNOW ABOUT ERPOs?****

This Overview provides information about MA Extreme Risk Protection Orders, a tool to save lives. Access the information with the bit.ly links provided.

FAQs - MA Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)

A MA ERPO, also known as a “red flag” law or gun violence restraining order in some states, is a tool to help prevent firearm violence of all forms by allowing law enforcement, household and family members, certain health care providers, and some school or college officials to petition a court for the temporary removal of firearms from someone considered to be in serious danger of harming themselves or others. Learn more about ERPOs, the process for obtaining one, and how they work.

Helpful Resources for ERPO Petitioners and ERPO Respondents

Check out these helpful resources for individuals seeking to file an ERPO and for those who have had an ERPO issued against them.

Why We Need ERPOs

Firearm deaths and injuries are *not* inevitable. Keeping firearms out of the wrong hands and preventing tragedy is the purpose of Extreme Risk Protection Orders. ERPOs save lives.

FAQs - ERPOs

<https://bit.ly/FAQsERPOs>

Helpful Resources

<https://bit.ly/ResourcesERPO>

Why We Need ERPOs

<https://bit.ly/WhyWeNeedERPOs>



grassroots4gvp.org

Date Created: 3-3-25. Grassroots for Gun Violence Prevention (grassroots4gvp.org) is a Massachusetts organization promoting commonsense solutions to preventing gun violence in all its forms. For information regarding Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), contact us at erpomassg4gvp@gmail.com.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MASSACHUSETTS EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS (ERPOs)

IMPORTANT NOTICE/DISCLAIMER

This document (and/or the website from which you accessed this document) is for general informational and educational purposes only.

- It **does NOT provide legal advice** and should not be used as a substitute for the advice of an attorney. If you need legal advice, please contact an attorney.
- It **does NOT and should NOT be used as a substitute for the advice of an appropriately qualified and licensed physician or other health care provider**. If you need medical advice, please contact a medical provider directly.

If you or someone you know is in crisis:

For free 24/7 confidential crisis support:

<p>Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis Lifeline</p> <p>Call or text 988</p> <p>Chat online at 988lifeline.org</p>	<p>Veterans Crisis Line for Veterans and their loved ones</p> <p>Call 988 then press 1</p>	<p>National Domestic Violence Hotline</p> <p>Call 1-800-799-7233</p>
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What are Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)?

An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), also known as a “red flag” law or a gun violence restraining order in some states, is a **tool to help prevent firearm violence*** by allowing law enforcement, household and family members, certain health care providers, and others defined by law to petition a court for the temporary removal of firearms from someone considered a serious danger of harming themselves or others. See the complete list of eligible ERPO petitioners (Who Can File a Petition for an ERPO?) on pp. 4-5.

The person seeking an ERPO by petitioning the court for temporary removal of someone’s firearms and ammunition is called the Petitioner.

The person against whom the ERPO petition is filed is called the Respondent.

***Firearm violence** is the term used for all firearm-related injuries or deaths, including:

- Mass shooting
- Mass killing
- School shooting
- Firearm suicide
- Firearm homicide
- Firearm murder-suicide
- Domestic violence/intimate partner violence firearm-related homicide
- Unintentional firearm injury or death

As of January 27, 2025, Massachusetts is one of 20 states, and the District of Columbia, that have passed an ERPO law.

However, ERPO laws and implementation vary from state to state.

What is a Massachusetts Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)?

A Massachusetts Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) is a **civil court order** issued by a judge, who *after a hearing determines* that the **Respondent** poses a risk of causing physical harm to self or others and is in possession of a license to carry firearms (LTC), a firearm identification card (FID), or has control, ownership or possession of a firearm or ammunition.

A Massachusetts ERPO is “an order by the court that requires: (i) **the immediate suspension and surrender of any LTC or FID card** that the respondent may hold; (ii) the respondent to **surrender all firearms or ammunition** that the respondent then controls, owns or possesses; and (iii) the respondent shall be **ineligible for any new LTC or FID card for the duration of the order**; provided, however, that an **extreme risk protection order shall be in effect for up to 1 year from the date of issuance and may be renewed upon petition.**” (M.G.L. c. 140, §121).

How are the words “firearm” and “ammunition” defined under Massachusetts Law?

A **firearm** is defined under Massachusetts law as “a stun gun, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, sawed-off shotgun, large capacity firearm, assault-style firearm and machine gun, loaded or unloaded, which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a shot or bullet; the frame or receiver of any such firearm or the unfinished frame or receiver of any such firearm; provided, however, that “firearm” shall not include any antique firearm or permanently inoperable firearm.” (M.G.L. c. 140, § 121)

Ammunition is defined under Massachusetts law as “cartridges or cartridge cases, primers (igniter), bullets or propellant powder designed for use in any firearm, rifle or shotgun. The term "ammunition" also includes tear gas cartridges.” (M.G.L. c. 140, § 121).

Will the Respondent have a criminal record if an ERPO is issued against them?

No. The ERPO process is a civil legal matter. An **ERPO is an opportunity for the Respondent to get the help they need and to keep the Respondent and others safe.**

When a petition for an ERPO is filed, or an ERPO is issued against the Respondent, it **does not create a criminal record nor is it included in the criminal history of the Respondent (if any)**, on the Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) system record maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS).

However, violation of an ERPO is a criminal matter.

Any person convicted (pleads guilty or is found guilty) of violation of an ERPO can be punished by up to 2 ½ years in a house of correction (jail), fine of \$5,000 or both. M.G.L. c.140, § 131S (f).

Any criminal case relating to the ERPO (such as violation of the ERPO), is included in the Massachusetts Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) system.

What is considered a violation of a Massachusetts ERPO?

Each of the following is a violation of a Massachusetts ERPO and punishable as a crime **if a Respondent pleads guilty to or is proven guilty at trial by proof beyond a reasonable doubt of:**

- Failing to surrender any firearms or ammunition within 24 hours of being served with the ERPO as required by M.G.L. c.140, §131S subsection (e). M.G.L. c. 140, §131S, subsection (d)(1)
- Retaining, acquiring or gaining access to a firearm or ammunition while an ERPO order remains in effect. M.G.L. c. 140, § 131S, subsection (d)(2)
- Obtaining a LTC or FID card or a firearm while the ERPO order remains in effect.

What are the key features of a Massachusetts ERPO?

Like most ERPOs, a Massachusetts ERPO is:

- **preemptive** – issued by a court to prevent firearm violence *before it happens* by removing a person’s access to firearms and ammunition for a limited period of time.
- **time-limited**—the ERPO is temporary for a set period of time. For example:
 - An **Emergency ERPO issued when courts are closed** is valid only until the end of the next court business day.
 - An **Emergency ERPO issued in court** is valid for no more than ten (10) days.
 - A **Final ERPO issued in court after a hearing with advance notice to the Respondent and in which Respondent may testify, present evidence and challenge the Petitioner**, is valid for *up to* one year.

Both Emergency and Final ERPOs are explained on pp. 7-9.

Who can file a petition for an ERPO?

There are five (5) categories of **eligible Massachusetts ERPO Petitioners**. (M.G.L. c. 140, §121). Each of the following is eligible to file a petition for an ERPO.

1. A **family or household member** defined as a person who:

- Is or was engaged to or married to the Respondent
- Is or was living in the same household as the Respondent
- Is or was related by blood or marriage to the Respondent
- Has or is having a child with the Respondent, regardless of whether they have ever been married or lived together
- Is or has been in a “substantive dating relationship” with the Respondent.

A **substantive dating relationship** is defined as “a relationship as determined by the court after consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of time of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; (iii) the frequency of interaction between the parties; and (iv) if the relationship has been terminated by either person, the length of time elapsed since the termination of the relationship.” (M.G.L. c. 140, §121)

2. The **firearms licensing authority** (typically the police department in the city or town where the Respondent lives)

3. **Any law enforcement agency or law enforcement officer**, as defined in [M.G.L. c. 6E, §1](#), that has interacted with the Respondent in an official capacity within the preceding 30 days.

4. **Health care provider (medical professional)** listed below that provided health care services to the respondent within the preceding 6 months:

- Licensed physician
- Licensed physician assistant
- Registered nurse
- Licensed practical nurse
- Certified nurse practitioner
- Certified clinical nurse specialist
- Certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist
- Licensed psychiatrist
- Licensed psychologist
- Licensed mental health counselor
- Licensed marriage and family therapist
- Licensed alcohol and drug counselor
- Licensed independent clinical social worker
- Licensed certified social worker

5. A **principal or assistant principal** of an elementary school or secondary school, or an **administrator** of a college or university where the Respondent is enrolled.

What if a person concerned for the safety of the Respondent or others doesn't qualify for or is unable to file the ERPO petition?

Any person who does not qualify to file an ERPO petition or is unable to do so and who is concerned about someone who is showing signs of posing a risk of bodily injury to themselves or others should:

- Contact their local police department and ask for their assistance *or*
- Contact the police department in the city or town where the Respondent lives for their assistance

Does the Petitioner need to have an attorney in ERPO proceedings?

No. An attorney is not required, but a Petitioner *may* choose to hire one for assistance and guidance in the ERPO process. Also, the Respondent may hire an attorney but is not required to do so.

How does the Petitioner start the ERPO process?

Any eligible Massachusetts ERPO Petitioner (pp. 4-5) may start the ERPO process by:

- Filing the Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) and related forms listed below. Or,
- Contacting a member of law enforcement to discuss their concerns regarding the Respondent. Law enforcement may then investigate these concerns and may choose to file a Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) with the court.

The ERPO Petitioner must complete and file four (4) ERPO forms:

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- Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order
- Affidavit for Extreme Risk Protection Order
- Petitioner Confidential Information Form
- Respondent Information Form

The ERPO court forms are available:

- [Online in the Massachusetts Trial Court: ERPO Petition Packet.](#)
- Paper copies are available at all Massachusetts Boston Municipal and District Courts.

When and where can the Petitioner file the petition requesting an ERPO?

When: An ERPO may be requested **anytime** (24 hours per day/365 days per year).

Where: Where you will go to file the ERPO Petition depends on whether the courts are OPEN or CLOSED at the time the ERPO petition is being filed.

- **When courts are OPEN:** During court business hours Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (except for state and federal holidays) go to a [District Court location](#) or [Boston Municipal Courts location](#).

Find the list of District and Boston Municipal courts, and the cities and towns each court serves, at <https://www.mass.gov/courthouse-locator>

- **When courts are CLOSED:** Go to your local police station or the nearest police station.

For an overview of the ERPO process, instructions for completing forms and copies of ERPO forms: The Massachusetts Trial Court: ERPO Petition Packet <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-trial-court-erpo-petition-packet/download> or see QR code here.



What type of ERPO should the Petitioner request, an Emergency ERPO or a Final ERPO?

The answer depends on **when the Petitioner is filing the ERPO Petition**. There are two types of Massachusetts ERPOs—emergency and final ERPOs.

An **Emergency ERPO** is selected when there is a need for speedy action to try to prevent risk of bodily harm to Respondent or others. In these emergency situations, the Petitioner may file an ERPO petition, attend a hearing, and obtain an Emergency ERPO without waiting to provide notice of a hearing to the Respondent. The Emergency ERPO is issued by a judge after a hearing at which only the Petitioner attends and participates.

There are **2 types of Emergency ERPO hearings and orders**:

- **When courts are OPEN:** Hearing held at the court when courts are open. This hearing is known as an ex-parte hearing, meaning only the Petitioner participates in the hearing. ERPO is in effect for no more than 10 days* and expires on the date of the final ERPO hearing.
- **When courts are CLOSED:** Hearing held at the police station when courts are closed. This hearing is known as an ex-parte hearing, meaning only the Petitioner participates in the hearing. An ERPO issued when Courts are closed expires on the next day court is open.

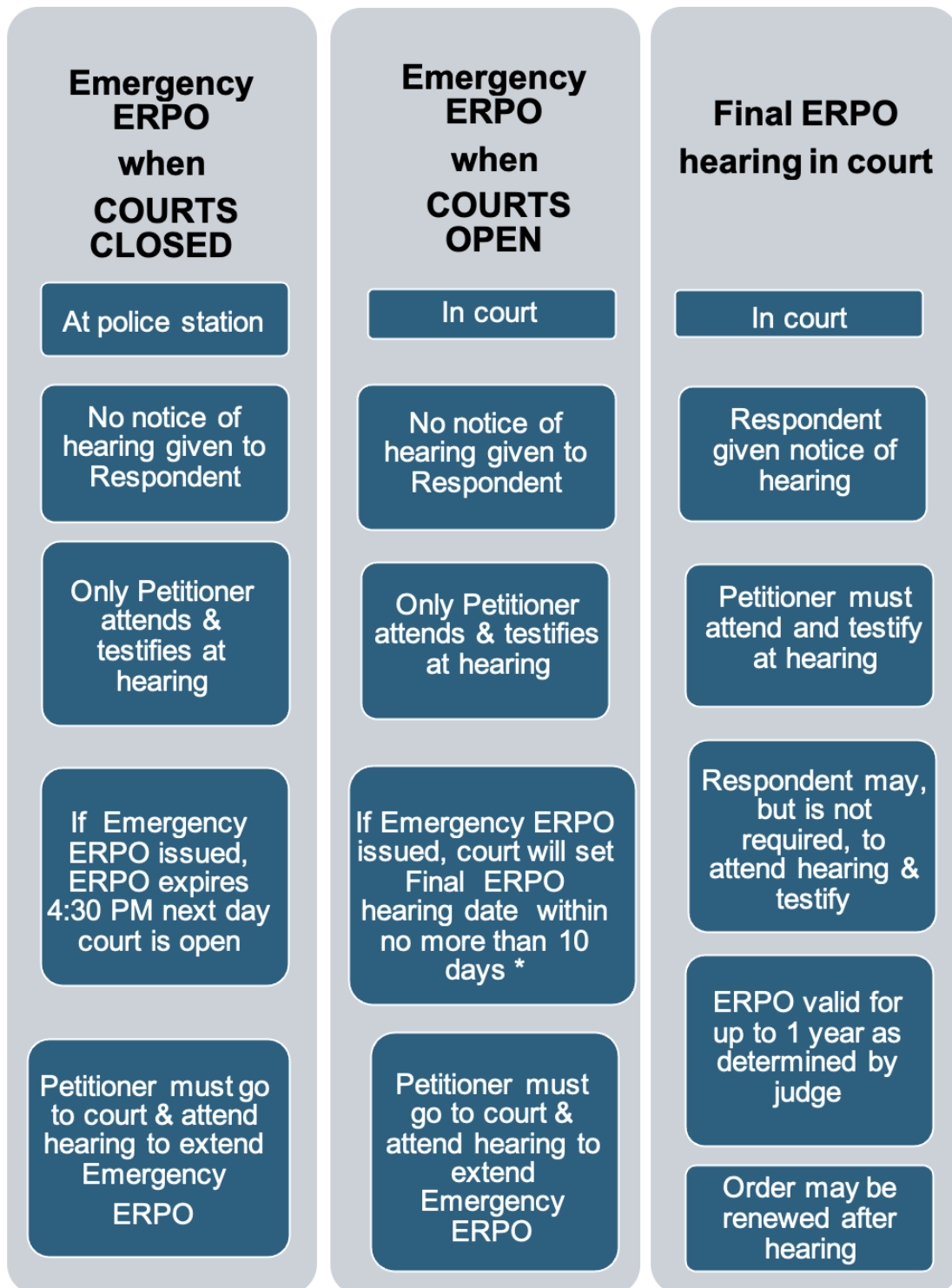
**Note:* A hearing within two days of the date an in-court emergency ERPO is issued is required if the Respondent files an affidavit (a written statement under oath) with the court stating that a firearm or ammunition is required in the performance of Respondent's employment. M.G.L. c. 140, §131S(b).

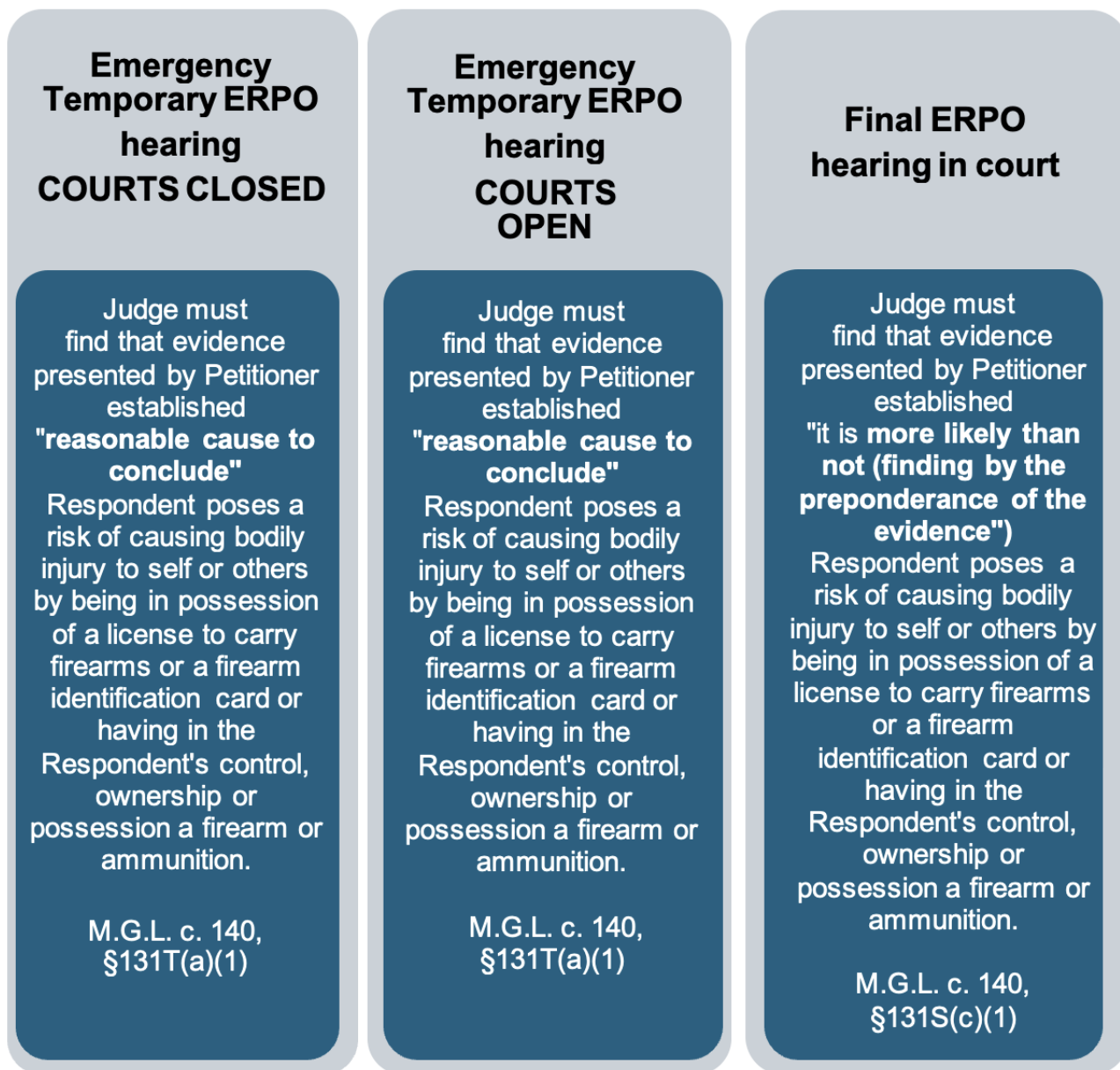
The Final ERPO hearing is held in court with advance notice to the Respondent. To protect the Respondent's due process rights, the Respondent will be served with notice of the Final ERPO hearing date and time, together with a copy of the ERPO Petition. Respondent may attend and participate in this hearing (testify, present evidence and cross examine the Petitioner). The Respondent is not required to attend or to participate in the hearing. The Respondent may hire an attorney to appear at the hearing but is not required to do so.

A **Final ERPO** may be issued **for up to one year**.

What are the differences between an Emergency ERPO and a Final ERPO?

A comparison of the Emergency and Final ERPOs is summarized below.





***Note:** A hearing within two days of the date the in-court emergency ERPO is issued is required if the Respondent files an affidavit (a written statement under oath) with the court stating that a firearm or ammunition is required in the performance of Respondent's employment. M.G.L. c. 140, §131S(b).

When can a judge issue an Emergency ERPO?

A judge may issue an **emergency ERPO** after:

1. An eligible ERPO Petitioner files a Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order signed under pains and penalties of perjury.
2. The judge holds a hearing, and the Petitioner testifies under oath to what the Petitioner has observed (seen, heard and/or experienced) demonstrating that the Respondent poses a risk of causing bodily injury to self or others by having a firearm, ammunition, LTC and/or FID card in their control, ownership or possession. (M.G.L. c. 140, §131R).

A Petitioner may present supporting materials that may help the judge decide that the Respondent poses a risk of physically hurting themselves or others by having firearms, ammunition, and/or a license to have or carry firearms.

Examples of supporting materials include:

- Documents (letters, notes, cards, or any other documents)
- Photographs in any format
- Emails, text messages, voice mail messages
- Police report(s)
- Incident report(s) (workplace, residential security, or others)

3. The judge finds that the evidence presented by Petitioner established "**reasonable cause to conclude**" Respondent poses a risk of causing bodily injury to self or others by being in possession of a LTC or a FID card or having in the Respondent's control, ownership or possession a firearm or ammunition. M.G.L. c. 140, §131T(a)(1).

An ERPO does **not** require:

- A mental health evaluation, mental health diagnosis or history of mental health treatment
- Substance abuse evaluation, diagnosis or history of treatment
- That a crime or criminal activity has occurred

Evidence that a Respondent poses a risk of causing bodily injury to self or others may include:

- Recent acts or threats of violence towards self or others
- History of violent, threatening or dangerous behavior to self or others
- Conviction of a violent misdemeanor or felony
- History of, or current, risky alcohol or controlled substance use
- Recent violation of a domestic violence protective order or harassment prevention order
- Unlawful or reckless use, display, or brandishing of a firearm
- Recent acquisition of firearms, ammunition and/or other deadly weapons
- Cruelty to animals

- Serious mental illness or emotional disturbance of the Respondent that makes them dangerous to self, and/or others (not mental illness or emotional disturbance alone).

What does an ERPO require?

An Emergency Risk Protection Order issued by a judge may require that:

- The Respondent surrenders all firearms and ammunition that they then control, own or possess to the licensing authority—typically the police department in the city or town where the Respondent resides.
- The Respondent surrenders any LTC and/or FID card to the licensing authority (typically the police department) in the city or town where the Respondent resides.
- For the duration of the ERPO, the Respondent is not eligible to obtain a LTC or FID card and may not purchase any firearm or ammunition.

An ERPO also prevents a Respondent who does *not* yet own, possess or control firearms, ammunition, LTC, and/or FID card from acquiring any of these for the duration of the ERPO.
(M.G.L. c. 140, §§131R to 131Y).

Important Note: An ERPO does **not** order the Respondent to:

- Have no contact with a person or persons
- Stay away from a person or place
- Not abuse a person
- Receive treatment for mental health purposes
- Receive treatment for an alcohol or substance use disorder

If you need any of the above-listed protections for your safety:

- Contact your local police department by phone or in person. Or,
- Call or go in person to the district or Boston municipal court that serves the city or town where you live.

Find the list of District and Boston Municipal courts, and the cities and towns each court serves, at <https://www.mass.gov/courthouse-locator>.

For more information on Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (209A) go [here](#). For more information on Harassment Prevention Order go [here](#).



WHY WE NEED ERPOs

Massachusetts has an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Law.
Know the facts why ERPOs save lives.

“No single solution, like better access to mental health services or improved social supports will eliminate suicide, but limiting access to lethal means is one of the few evidence-based methods of reducing suicides.” [23]

1. **Firearm deaths and injuries are *not always* inevitable.** Putting time and distance between a person in crisis and a firearm can prevent a tragedy. [1] [2] [3]
2. **Suicide and firearms are a deadly combination as shown by the data on firearm deaths by suicide in an average year in Massachusetts (2019 – 2023).**
 - 54.8% of all firearm deaths were suicides.[4]
 - 19% of all firearm deaths of children and teens in Massachusetts were suicides (compared to the U.S. average of 31%).[4] [22]
3. **Domestic violence (also called intimate partner violence) and firearms are also a deadly combination.**
 - Massachusetts for the year 2024 (as of September 20, 2024): 13 of 21 domestic homicide victims were killed with a firearm. [5, 6]
 - Nationwide:
 - Over half of all domestic violence homicides involve firearms. [6]
 - Two thirds of all female homicide victims are killed with a firearm. [6]
 - Intimate partner homicide is the leading cause of death for pregnant and postpartum women. Between 2009 – 2019, 68% of pregnancy-related homicides involved firearms. [7]
 - In over 46% of mass shootings (defined as any shooting incident in which four or more people are shot and wounded or killed, excluding the shooter) between 2015 and 2022, the perpetrator shot a current or former intimate partner or family member as part of the rampage. [8]

1

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- Abusers with firearms are five times (500%) more likely to kill their female victims than abusers without firearms. [6] [9] [10] [11]

4. Tragedy can be prevented by removing access to firearms that, in a moment of crisis, can be used in suicides, homicides, mass shootings, school shootings, domestic violence murders, murder-suicides and accidental shootings.



- Removing access to a firearm by putting time and distance between a person in crisis and the firearm can mean the difference between life and death. [3] [5] [6] [12] [13] [14] [15]
- Thoughts of suicide, domestic violence or other homicide, mass shootings, and school shootings as well as easy access to firearms too often have deadly, but preventable results. [1] [2] [16] [17] [18]

5. Recognizing warning signs of potential firearm violence—suicide, homicide, school shootings, mass shootings, domestic violence murder, or murder-suicide—provides a life-saving opportunity to intervene with an ERPO to prevent firearm deaths and injuries. [19] [21]

- ERPOs are effectively used after warning signs that provide opportunities to intervene by putting critical time and distance between a person who may be a danger to themselves or others and a firearm. [19] [21]
- ERPOs temporarily remove firearms, ammunition, licenses to carry (LTC) and/or firearm identification (FID) cards from a person who poses a risk of bodily injury to themselves or others.
- A 13-year study of active shooters in the United States conducted by the FBI found: “On average each active shooter exhibited four to five observable concerning behaviors” before the shooting. [21]
- According to the FBI study [20], concerning behaviors were observed before each shooting by:
 - 87% of spouses or domestic partners
 - 68% of family members
 - 25% of members of law enforcement

6. ERPOs save lives in these 3 ways: [3] [19] [23] [24]

- Stopping a momentary or short term crisis from becoming a tragedy.
- Providing an effective tool for law enforcement, concerned family or household members, health care providers, and others to intervene quickly to prevent physical harm to the person who may be a danger to themselves or others.

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- Preventing firearm-related deaths and injuries before they happen by interrupting firearm access by those identified to be at risk of harming themselves and/or others.

7. A Massachusetts ERPO:

- Is a civil court order issued by a judge, who after a hearing determines that the person against whom the ERPO is sought poses a risk of causing physical harm to themselves or others and should not possess or purchase firearms or ammunition.
- Temporarily prohibits an individual who poses a danger to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing firearms or ammunition.
- Is a potentially life-saving opportunity for the person against whom the ERPO is issued to get the help they need and to keep them and others safe
- Respects and protects the due process rights of the person against whom the ERPO is issued. [25]

For further information on MA ERPOs, see [FAQ's – MA Extreme Risk Protection Orders \(ERPOs\)](#) and [M.G.L. c. 140, §§131R – 131Y](#).

8. A growing number of research studies provide strong evidence that ERPOs save lives and can help prevent many types of firearm violence (especially suicide) by removing access to firearms before a tragedy happens. [3] [19] [23] [24]

- Firearm suicides and murder suicides
- School shootings
- Mass shootings
- Homicides, including domestic violence homicides
- Firearm injuries and threats

9. ERPOs have been used to effectively address threats of mass violence and other forms of interpersonal violence. Research analyzing thousands of ERPO petitions conducted by the [Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#) found:

- 10% of ERPOs were issued in response to threats to shoot at least three people. [19]
- 20% of all threats were directed toward K-12 schools.
- Intimate partners and their families or friends were threatened in 15% of cases. [20]

10. The vast majority of Americans, both gun owners and non-gun owners, agree that ERPOs are a responsible measure we can take to save lives and prevent firearm injuries and deaths. [26] [27] 28] [29]

For a detailed list of references, please access this document digitally at <https://bit.ly/WhyWeNeedERPOs>.

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HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR ERPO PETITIONERS AND ERPO RESPONDENTS

These resources will provide general information to assist Petitioners who wish to file an ERPO and Respondents who have had an ERPO petition issued against them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE/DISCLAIMER

This document (and/or the website from which you accessed this document) is for general informational and educational purposes only for individuals who are seeking to file an ERPO petition or who have had an ERPO issued against them.

- This document **does NOT provide legal advice** and should not be used as a substitute for the advice of an attorney. If you need legal advice, please contact an attorney.
- This document **does NOT provide medical advice** and should NOT be used as a substitute for the advice of an appropriately qualified and licensed physician or other health care provider. If you need medical advice, please contact a medical provider directly.

If you or someone you know is in crisis:

For free 24/7 confidential crisis support:

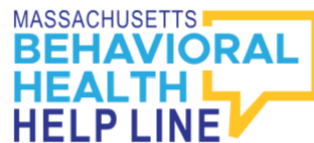
<p>Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis Lifeline</p> <p>Call or text 988</p> <p>Chat online at 988lifeline.org</p>	<p>Veterans Crisis Line for Veterans and their loved ones</p> <p>Call 988 then press 1</p>	<p>National Domestic Violence Hotline</p> <p>Call 1-800-799-7233</p>
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Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) - Massachusetts Trial Court:

ERPO Petition Packet

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-trial-court-erpo-petition-packet/download>

Massachusetts Behavioral Health, Mental Health and/or Substance Use Help, Services and Treatment



Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline - The Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) connects individuals and families to the full range of treatment services for mental health and substance use offered in Massachusetts, including outpatient, urgent, and immediate crisis care. Call or text for real-time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right evaluation and treatment. <https://www.masshelpline.com/>

Crisis Services at Community Behavioral Health Centers. Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs) offer immediate help 24/7 in communities across Massachusetts.

Find a Community Behavioral Health Center Near You

<https://www.mass.gov/find-a-cbhc>



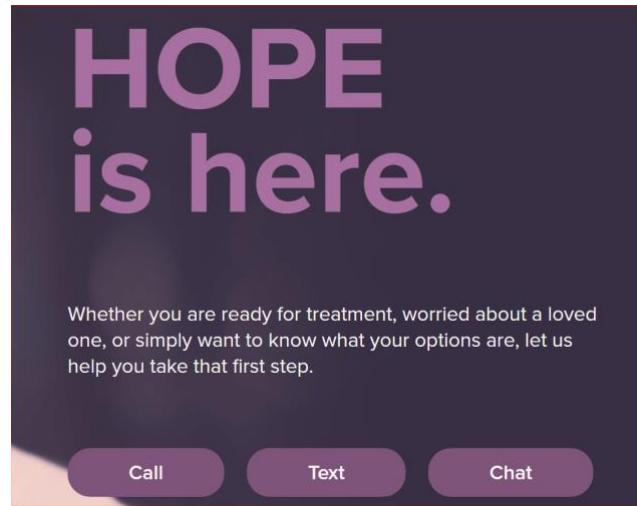
Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline

<https://helplinema.org>

Call the HELPLINE at 1-(800) 327-5050

Text: "HOPE" to 800327

Live Chat at <https://helplinema.org>



Domestic Violence (Intimate Partner Violence)

Abuse Prevention Orders (209A)

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-law-about-domestic-violence-209a>

Abuse Prevention Order (209A) & Harassment Prevention Order (258E) Resource Guide

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/209a-258e-resource-guide>

Abuse Prevention Orders: 209A – Massachusetts Legal Help.org

<https://www.masslegalhelp.org/domestic-abuse-crime-victims/209a-restraining-orders>

Civil Commitment for Mental Health or Alcohol/Substance Use Disorder

Physicians and certain licensed mental health professionals can initiate emergency mental health commitments, called "a Section 12" explained here: [M.G.L. c. 123, §12](#)

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Speak to a clerk in a district or Boston municipal court to ask about individuals (such as family members) who can ask for a court order for:

- An emergency mental health commitment, called Section 12(e). M.G.L. c. 123, §12(e), or
- A commitment for treatment of alcohol or substance use disorder, explained here is called a section 35. M.G.L. c. 123, §35.

Harassment Prevention Orders (258)

<https://www.mass.gov/harassment-prevention-orders>

Interpreter Services for Court

For interpreter services related to court proceedings, speak to staff in the court clerk's office.

- Trial Court Office of Language Access (OLA)
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/trial-court-office-of-language-access>
- The New England Translators Association (Click on Find a Translator or Interpreter tab).
<https://www.netaweb.org/>

Massachusetts law about mental health issues (Massachusetts Department of Mental Health)

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-law-about-mental-health-issues>

Mental Health and Counseling Services

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mental-health-counseling-services>

Mental Health and Firearms

Brave Conversations.org - Sponsored by National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) & American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

<https://braveconversation.org/>

NAMI – Massachusetts - National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI)Massachusetts

<https://namimass.org/>

The Safer Homes Collaborative - A joint effort between the firearm-owning community and the suicide prevention community to raise awareness that suicide can be prevented through safe firearm storage. <https://www.saferhomescollaborative.org/about-us/>

A source and example of how to employ a credible messenger model when talking about firearm suicide prevention and safe gun storage. **Contact: Katie Ellison, katie.ellison@mimh.e**

Reporting on Suicide - A resource for the best practices for covering suicide. Their recommendations are developed by experts in suicide prevention and in collaboration with several international suicide prevention and public health organizations, schools of journalism, media organizations, journalists, and internet safety experts. <https://reportingonsuicide.org>

The BulletPoints Project - Established in 2019 by the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis through a California State Assembly bill. The project was created to teach medical and mental health care providers how to reduce the risk of firearm injury in their patients. <https://www.bulletpointsproject.org/>

Suicide Prevention

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

<https://afsp.org>

AFSP Massachusetts

<https://afsp.org/chapter/massachusetts>

Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition: Suicide Prevent Website

<https://www.masstpc.org/suicide-prevention/>

Trans Lifeline

877-565-8860

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly the National Suicide Prevention Hotline)

<https://988lifeline.org>

Dial 988

Text 988

Chat 988

The Trevor Project

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

1-866-488-7386

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TrevorChat online instant messaging option
TrevorText text-based support option
Visit TrevorSpace from anywhere in the world.

Services for Veterans and Their Families

Veterans Crisis Line

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>
Send a text to 838255

Vets4Warriors

<https://vets4warriors.com>

Veterans Mental Health Webpage

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/healthcare-providers/index.asp>

Veteran's Suicide Prevention Webpage

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/healthcare-providers/suicide-prevention.asp>