



# **Domestic Violence Protection Order - Extreme Risk Protection Order Template Trifold Brochure**

Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) are types of injunctions issued by a civil court. Both can prohibit the person subject to the order from possessing or purchasing firearms or ammunition. However, DVPOs and ERPOs are not interchangeable, and there are a number of key distinctions between the two.

This trifold template brochure is intended to guide legal practitioners, advocates, and others in creating a resource for survivors that outlines the important differences between the two orders using information specific to their jurisdiction. When survivors know what each type of order can and cannot do, they are able to make more informed choices about how to keep themselves and their children safe.

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## How long does an [ERPO] last?

[Enter the range of duration in the state]

## What happens if an [ERPO] is violated?

Generally, individuals cannot seek enforcement of [ERPO] violations. In [name of state], [Insert state law regarding civil and/or criminal penalties for violations of ERPOs and how and to whom to report violations, e.g. law enforcement]. [ERPOs] may be enforced in other states, though some states do not do so.

Contact the National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit at [ncffc@bwjp.org](mailto:ncffc@bwjp.org) or 1-800-903-0111 prompt 2, or the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms at 1-800-903-0111, ext. 1 or [info@nrcdvf.org](mailto:info@nrcdvf.org)

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## ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PARTNER'S FIREARM ACCESS?

IS A [insert name of your jurisdiction's domestic violence protection order] or [insert name of your jurisdiction's extreme risk protection order] RIGHT FOR YOU?

Both [name of domestic violence protection order] and [name of extreme risk protection order] are civil (not criminal) orders that can stop your partner's access to firearms. There are differences in these two types of orders, such as who can apply and what a court can order someone to do or not do.

For more information or to discuss a plan for your safety, call the advocates at [local domestic violence/legal assistance program information] or the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233).

## [NAME OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDER]

### What is a [domestic violence protection order] and who can request one?

[Domestic violence protection orders] are designed to protect domestic violence survivors—and sometimes their children, other family or pets—from continued abuse and harassment. You may qualify to request an order if your [insert your domestic violence protection order relationship requirements (for example partner or household family member)] has [insert your statute's definition of abuse]

### What can a [domestic violence protection order] include?

[Domestic violence protection orders] may require your partner to:

[Relief available will vary by state. Edit the following list as necessary, and enter any additional relief that your jurisdiction offers]

- Stay away from you and your children [insert other people/pets who can be protected in the local jurisdiction]
- Stop contacting you
- Pay child support and/or spousal support, or other bills
- Follow a child visitation/custody schedule and give you temporary custody

- Move out of a shared home
- Stop possessing firearms or ammunition (bullets). The order may also make it illegal under federal law [add “and state law” here if applicable] for the respondent to purchase firearms or ammunition.
- [Insert other relief available]

Generally, people who file a petition and receive a [domestic violence protection order] from the court are notified if the order is changed or terminated.

### How long does the [domestic violence protection order] last?

Ex parte orders (the initial, temporary order) generally remain in effect until the court holds a hearing on the final order, which is usually about 2-3 weeks. Final orders can range from [insert local jurisdictional information].

### What happens when a [domestic violence protection order] is violated?

The person protected by the order can report violations to law enforcement or the court. Federal law states that domestic violence protection orders are valid in every U.S. state, Tribe, and territory. [Insert here state law civil and/or criminal penalties for violations of domestic violence protection orders] .

If the respondent tries to purchase a firearm through a licensed dealer, a background check will show that they cannot purchase firearms. In many jurisdictions, local law enforcement will be notified that the person tried to, and was denied, a firearm purchase.

[Insert state/local procedures for victim notification of firearm removal].

## [NAME OF EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER]

### What is an [ERPO] and who can request one?

The purpose of an [ERPO] is to stop people who are at risk of harming themselves or others from possessing or purchasing firearms. [List those who qualify to file for an ERPO under state law]. [ERPOs] do **not** include specific protections for you.

### What can an [ERPO] include?

[ERPOs] **only** order your partner to stop possessing firearms or ammunition. The order can require that the respondent remove any firearms or ammunition in their possession and can make it illegal for them to purchase firearms or ammunition while the [ERPO] lasts. No other protections or benefits are available through an [ERPO].