



EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER (ERPO) in Massachusetts

What is an ERPO? An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) may be used to protect yourself or loved ones from gun violence. When you file an ERPO, you are asking the courts to temporarily remove guns from a person who is at risk of hurting themselves or others, allowing all to stay safe in times of crisis. An ERPO will also prevent that person from being able to legally buy a gun while it is in effect. If you are concerned about a family member or partner's behavior and they have access to a gun, we encourage you to file an ERPO.

Who can file an ERPO? You can file an ERPO if you live with the gun owner, even if you are not related or in a relationship. You can also file if you do not live with the gun owner and are any of the following:

- a family member
- a current or former dating partner
- share a child with the gun owner

What if I am concerned about my safety or others but don't think I can file an ERPO? Please contact your local police department, as they can file an ERPO to keep yourself, the gun owner, or others safe if necessary.

Will I be getting the gun owner in trouble with the law? If an ERPO is filed on someone, it does not go on their criminal record and is handled through civil (not criminal) court. This action is for the person's own protection or the safety of others and may allow the person to get the help they need.

How do I file an ERPO? There are 3 forms that you will need to fill out (FS-1, FS-2, FS-3). You can get these forms at any district court or online at mass.gov or MAerpo.org to print out. Bring the forms to the court local to the gun owner to file during business hours. If you cannot get to that court, you can go to your local police station and ask for assistance in filing. If you think the situation may be an emergency and the court is closed, go to the police station closest to where the gun owner lives if possible and they will assist you; otherwise, go to the station nearest you.

How do I find out more information? To learn more about the ERPO process or to find the forms to file one, please visit any of the following websites:

- mass.gov
- MAerpo.org
- MAPreventionGunViolence.org