

What is an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)?

An ERPO is issued against a person, the “Respondent”, who has a license to possess or carry a gun and who poses a risk of causing bodily injury to self or others by having in their control, ownership, or possession a firearm, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, stun gun, or ammunition.

Who can request an order?

A petition can be filed by a family or household member or the police department of the city or town where the Respondent lives. The petitioner includes a person who:

- is or was married or residing with the Respondent in the same household;
- is or was related by blood or marriage to the Respondent;
- has or is having a child in common with the Respondent, regardless of whether they have even been married or lived together;
- is or has been in a substantive dating relationship or engagement with the Respondent;

Both the Petitioner and Respondent have the right to hire an attorney to represent them at ERPO proceedings.

What if I do not qualify to file?

If you do not qualify to file a petition or if you know that the Respondent does not have a license to possess or carry firearms, but you believe that the Respondent poses a risk to self or others by having in his or her possession firearms, rifles, shotguns, machine guns, stun guns, or ammunition, you should contact the police department where the Respondent lives.

When can I file an ERPO?

- If you're seeking an order in-person during court business hours, you should file a petition in the clerk's office in the District Court location or BMC location that has jurisdiction over the city or town where the respondent lives.
- If you're seeking an order in-person during non-court business hours, you should go to the police station in the city or town in which the respondent lives and inform the police that you would like to file a petition for an ERPO. If you're unable to go to the police station in the city or town in which the respondent resides, you should go to the closest police station.



For More Information

For more information and resources on ERPO, go to www.mass.gov. ERPO petition forms are available online or in all District Court and Boston Municipal Court (BMC) clerk's offices.