A 28-year-old man who grabbed a gun case and threatened suicide. A 60-year-old man who grabbed a .38 revolver and fled his home after his family discovered he was molesting his grandchild. The man was arrested with the gun in his vehicle.

A 38-year-old man who threatened to kill himself, his wife, and their young child if she left him. His wife had overheard him distraught and crying in the bathroom, and cocking his .40 caliber pistol. A 28-year-old man who grabbed a gun case and threatened suicide. When his ex-girlfriend tried to call for help, he grabbed her by her hair, threw her on the ground, and pushed her head into a wall. Police seized two handguns, two rifles, and a shotgun.

A 30-year-old woman whose husband, a 60-year-old man, grabbed a .38 revolver and fled his home after his family discovered he was molesting his grandchild. The man surrendered a handgun and an AR-15, the semi-automatic rifle frequently used by mass shooters. A 23-year-old ex-Marine who had developed a paranoia that all males wanted to harm him. He had walked into an auto parts store with a loaded handgun, but called police before shooting anyone. A 39-year-old man who, while intoxicated (at three times the legal limit), believed he was shooting at raccoons and rats in his backyard. Terrified neighbors called police as bullets flew into their backyards. A 60-year-old man who grabbed a gun case and threatened suicide. When his ex-girlfriend tried to call for help, he grabbed her by her hair, threw her on the ground, and pushed her head into a wall. Police seized two handguns, two rifles, and a shotgun.

A 33-year-old man who locked his wife in a car with him, threatening her with a loaded firearm. When the Police Department arrived on the scene and searched the car, they found a meth pipe along with two loaded firearms that did not belong to him. He later surrendered a Glock 9mm and a .380 handgun. A 38-year-old man who grabbed a gun case and threatened suicide. When his ex-girlfriend tried to call for help, he grabbed her by her hair, threw her on the ground, and pushed her head into a wall. Police seized two handguns, two rifles, and a shotgun.

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In Massachusetts, petitioners may begin the ERPO process by requesting an emergency ERPO during non-court hours (i.e. when the court is closed for business) or by requesting an emergency ERPO during court hours. The difference between the two is the time of day the petitioner seeks an ERPO. Additionally, an emergency ERPO sought during non-court hours remains in effect only until the end of the next court day, providing the petitioner the time to go to court during court hours to petition for an ERPO.

*Information on this website does not constitute legal advice. Every factual situation is unique; if you want legal advice specific to your particular circumstances, please consult knowledgeable counsel.
Emergency Extreme Risk Protection Order Process

Authorized petitioners in Massachusetts include:

- Family or household members (including current or former spouses, persons currently or formerly residing in the same household, persons currently or formerly related by blood or marriage, persons with a child in common, persons currently or formerly in a substantive dating or engagement relationship)
- Licensing authority/policy department where the respondent lives

PROCEED WITH ERPO HEARING
(repeated from previous page)

Court decides if the respondent poses a risk of causing bodily injury to self or others by having in their possession a firearm, weapon or ammunition.

ERPO ISSUED

If the respondent is at the hearing, they are served with the ERPO while in court.

If the respondent is not at the hearing, law enforcement serves respondent with a copy of the ERPO, the petition, and informational resources, including a list of services relating to crisis intervention, mental health, substance use disorders and counseling.

Background check system is updated.

ERPO is in effect for up to one year.

(If firearms were not surrendered pursuant to an emergency order, they are surrendered at this time.)

ERPO NOT ISSUED

If the respondent requests the return of items surrendered and is found to be suitable for a license to carry firearms or a firearm identification card and lawfully permitted to possess firearms or ammunition, law enforcement returns any license to carry firearms or firearm identification card and all firearms, weapons, and ammunition requested.

Background check system is updated.

TERMINATE OR RENEW ERPO

The court may modify, suspend or terminate the ERPO at any time upon motion by either party.

UPDATE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

The clerk magistrate of the court forwards a copy of the terminated or expired ERPO to: the licensing authority, the Commissioner of Probation, DCJIS (who transmits for entry into NICS), and any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement or others to identify prohibited purchasers of firearms.

RETURN FIREARMS

Upon expiration or termination of an ERPO, the respondent may request the return of firearms, weapons, and ammunition.

Law enforcement returns items requested after confirming the respondent is not otherwise prohibited from purchasing and possessing firearms or ammunition.