A 35-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 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 35-year-old man who requested a court order to protect his fiancé’s ex-boyfriend and threatened to kill him while holding a knife behind his back. 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 .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 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 35-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. 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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 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 35-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. 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FILE AN ERPO PETITION
Petitioner describes for the court why the respondent poses an extreme risk of causing harm to self or others by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control.

SERVE ERPO PETITION AND NOTICE OF HEARING
Law enforcement serves the respondent with a copy of the ERPO petition and notice of the hearing.

ERPO HEARING
The court must find, by clear and convincing evidence, that the respondent poses an extreme risk of causing harm to himself or herself or another person by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having a dangerous weapon within the respondent’s custody or control.

FINAL ERPO ISSUED
If the respondent is present at the hearing and receives notice of the order on the record, they are considered served.
If the respondent is not present in court, law enforcement serves the respondent with a copy of the final ERPO.
A final ERPO is in effect for up to 6 months.

COMPLY WITH FINAL ERPO, DISPOSSESS DANGEROUS WEAPONS
The respondent relinquishes any firearm in their possession, custody, or control upon service of a final ERPO to law enforcement or a federally licensed firearms dealer.
The respondent relinquishes any dangerous weapons, other than a firearm, in their possession, custody, or control upon service of a final ERPO to law enforcement.
(The court may order relinquishment of firearms to a third party.)

TERMINATE OR RENEW ERPO
The respondent may file a motion to terminate once while the final ERPO is in effect.
The petitioner may file a motion requesting that the court renew a final ERPO for an additional period of up to six months.

RETURN FIREARMS
Upon expiration of the final ERPO, the respondent’s firearms are returned to the respondent within 3 business days unless the respondent is otherwise prohibited under federal or state law.

Authorized petitioners in Vermont include:
• A State’s Attorney
• Office of the Vermont Attorney General

*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.