A 28-year-old man who grabbed a gun case and threatened suicide when his ex-girlfriend tried to call for help. He later surrendered a handgun.

A 28-year-old man who threatened to kill himself, his wife, and their young child if she left him. His wife had overheard him crying in the bathroom, and cocking his .40 caliber pistol. He later surrendered a handgun.

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 Stock 9mm and a .380 handgun.

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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 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. He later surrendered a Stock 9mm and a .380 handgun.

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 threatened to kill himself, his wife, and their young child if she left him. His wife had overheard him crying in the bathroom, and cocking his .40 caliber pistol. He later surrendered a Stock 9mm and a .380 handgun.

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Authorized petitioners in Maryland include:
- Family, including someone related by blood, marriage, or adoption
- Law enforcement
- Health professionals

Extreme Risk Protective Order Process

**TEMPORARY ERPO PROCESS**

1. **COMPLETE AN ERPO PETITION**
2. **FILE PETITION WITH DISTRICT COURT JUDGE FOR A TEMPORARY ORDER**
   - Petition describes how the respondent poses an immediate and present danger of causing injury to self or others by possessing firearms.
3. **FILE PETITION WITH DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONER FOR AN INTERIM ERPO**
   - Petition describes how the respondent poses an immediate and present danger of causing injury to self or others by possessing firearms. If the commissioner finds the criteria for issuing an ERPO have been met, he/she issues an interim order prohibiting the respondent from purchasing and possessing guns for the duration of the order. Respondent receives notice that a temporary hearing will take place before a judge.

**FINAL ERPO PROCESS**

1. **FINAL ERPO HEARING BEFORE A JUDGE**
2. **RESPONDENT IS IN COURT**
   - Petitioner presents the petition to the court, respondent responds to the petition in court.
3. **RESPONDENT IS NOT IN COURT**
   - Petitioner presents the petition to the court
4. **COURT DETERMINES WHETHER TO ISSUE FINAL ERPO**
   - If an interim order was issued and the petitioner and the respondent were present at the Temporary ERPO hearing, they can waive the Temporary ERPO hearing and proceed to a Final ERPO hearing.
5. **COURT ISSUES FINAL ERPO**
   - ERPO is in place for up to one year. Respondent may appeal the court’s decision. Petitioner may petition to extend Final ERPO for six months.
6. **COURT DOES NOT ISSUE FINAL ERPO AND FIREARMS ARE RETURNED**
   - Petitioner may appeal the court’s decision. If there is no appeal, the process ends.

**TEMPORARY ERPO HEARING BEFORE A JUDGE**

- If an interim order was issued and the petitioner and the respondent were present at the Temporary ERPO hearing, they can waive the Temporary ERPO hearing and proceed to a Final ERPO hearing.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVES THE ERPO**

- Law enforcement provides the respondent with a copy of the ERPO and explains to the respondent the process of dispossessing him/herself of firearms and ammunition for the duration of the order. Law enforcement will also provide the respondent with a record of the firearms and ammunition removed. Law enforcement adds the ERPO to existing background check data systems to bar firearm purchases.

**IF A FINAL ERPO IS ISSUED, PURCHASE AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS IS PROHIBITED FOR UP TO 1 YEAR.**

*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.*