

# GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

If you are concerned someone close to you may use a firearm to hurt themselves or others, you may be able to file a Gun Violence Restraining Order to provide the opportunity for them to safely access help and to prevent gun violence and firearm suicide.

You can access a step-by-step guide and find all the required documents to file a request for a Gun Violence Restraining Order online at [gunsafety.ca.gov](https://gunsafety.ca.gov) or at your local Superior Court.



## WHAT IS A GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER?

- A Gun Violence Restraining Order is a **temporary action taken by a local court** when someone is at risk of causing harm to themselves or others.
- The individual in crisis receiving the order **cannot purchase or possess firearms or ammunition** while the order is in place.
- These temporary orders **empower Californians to intervene, protect the rights of individuals** in crisis and are not considered punishment under the law.



## HOW DOES A GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER KEEP PEOPLE SAFE?

- Research shows that Gun Violence Restraining Order in California **helped prevent 58 threatened mass shootings** in the first three years since taking effect.
- Gun Violence Restraining Order help prevent firearm suicides, which represent half of the state's gun deaths. Data shows enforcement of a similar law helped lead to a **14-percent reduction** in Connecticut's firearm suicide rate.



## WHO CAN FILE A REQUEST FOR GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER IN CALIFORNIA?

It is free to file a request for a Gun Violence Restraining Order.

Eligible petitioners include:

- A family member or loved one related by blood, marriage or adoption.
- A current or recent household member and roommate.
- A coworker who has had regular interactions with the person in crisis for at least one year, with approval from the employer.
- A teacher or employee at a middle school, high school, college or university that the person in crisis has attended in the last six months, with approval from a school administrator or supervisor.
- Law enforcement, including California peace officers.
- An individual who has a child in common or who has a dating relationship with the person in crisis.

**IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS ACTIVELY EXPERIENCING A CRISIS AND AT IMMINENT RISK OF SELF-HARM OR HARM TO OTHERS, CALL 911.**

# GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

THE SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY ATTORNEY'S GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT ARE HERE TO HELP.

IF YOU BELIEVE SOMEONE IS A DANGER TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS, OR EXHIBITING CONCERNING BEHAVIORS & HAS ACCESS TO FIREARMS OR INTENDS TO OBTAIN FIREARMS:

Emergency situations: **911**

Report suspicious activity and non-urgent concerns to the San Diego Police Department: **619-531-2000**



Officers respond to evaluate the situation and take a report if appropriate.

If there is an **IMMEDIATE THREAT**:

Officers will seek an emergency protective order for firearms (**EPO-002**), serve it, and collect the firearms.

Once an **EPO-002** is issued, the court hearing process will be handled by the joint **SDPD** and **City Attorney's Office - Gun Violence Reduction Unit (GVRU)**.

If there is **NO IMMEDIATE THREAT**:

The report may be submitted for consideration of a **Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO)** petition.

The report will be evaluated for a potential **GVRO**.

If a **GVRO** is sought, the court hearing process will be handled by the **SDPD** and **City Attorney's Office - GVRU**.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS ACTIVELY EXPERIENCING A CRISIS AND AT IMMINENT RISK OF SELF-HARM OR HARM TO OTHERS, CALL 911.



For more information about the City Attorney's Office Gun Violence Reduction Unit: [SanDiego.Gov/city-attorney](https://SanDiego.Gov/city-attorney)