

# Overview

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## What is a gun violence restraining order?

A GVRO is a civil restraining order preventing a person from controlling, accessing, possessing, and owning firearms and ammunition for a one-year renewable period. GVRO laws provide law enforcement an invaluable mechanism for proactively addressing gun violence and give law enforcement a mechanism to intervene to prevent escalating firearm-related violence.

## Steps for law enforcement officers to request a GVRO

1. Contact your local City Attorney's Office or County Counsel
2. Provide the necessary documentation for obtaining a GVRO
3. Personally serve the Temporary GVRO
4. Attend and testify at the GVRO Hearing
5. Personally serve the one-year renewable GVRO after hearing.

## How does a GVRO work?

Law enforcement officers may petition the Superior Court for a GVRO whenever a law enforcement officer has reasonable cause to believe a subject presents a danger of self-harm or harm to another. Officers are encouraged to specifically evaluate the following factors found in Penal Code Section 18155:

- A threat of self-harm or harm to another within the prior six months;
- Prior restraining order or emergency protective order violations;
- Prior convictions for offenses falling under Penal Code Section 29805;
- A pattern of violent acts within the prior year;
- Prior felony arrests;
- Unlawful and reckless use, display, or brandishing of a firearm;
- A subject's history of threatened or actual use of physical violence;
- Documentary evidence showing recent criminal activity that involved alcohol or controlled substances or ongoing abuse of alcohol or controlled substances; and
- Recent acquisition of firearms, ammunition, or other deadly weapons.

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