



GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

A TOOL TO PREVENT SELF-HARM AND HARM TO OTHERS

Gun Violence is a Preventable Public Health Crisis that Plagues Our Country

Under Governor Gavin Newsom's leadership, California has implemented the strongest gun safety laws in the nation. This includes Gun Violence Restraining Orders, which temporarily stop someone in crisis from possessing guns and ammunition while the order is in place.

A Gun Violence Restraining Order is a civil action taken by a local court. The temporary order gives an individual in crisis the opportunity to safely access help and care – and potentially stop an act of gun violence or firearm suicide from occurring. It is not considered punishment under the law.

By empowering those with the ability to file a request and through education and increased awareness, Californians can reduce the incidence of gun violence and firearm suicide.

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

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CALIFORNIA LEADS THE NATION IN GUN SAFETY

- In 2021, California was ranked first for gun safety by [Giffords Law Center](#). That same year, the state saw a 37% lower gun death rate than the national average.
- Californians are 25% [less likely to die in a mass shooting](#) compared to people in other states.



GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS CAN SAVE LIVES

- California [issued](#) 3,007 Gun Violence Restraining Orders from 2016 to 2020.
- In the first three years since taking effect, the [orders have helped prevent 58 threatened mass shootings](#) in the state, according to UC Davis researchers.



THOSE CLOSEST TO AN INDIVIDUAL MAY SEE WARNING SIGNS FIRST

Governor Newsom signed a bill that took effect on January 1, 2023, to expand the list of people who can file a request for a Gun Violence Restraining Order.

These “eligible petitioners” now include:

- **A family member or loved one** related by blood, marriage, or adoption.
- **Anyone who is a current household member/roommate** or has been within the last six months.
- **A coworker** who has regularly interacted 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** where 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.