

Understanding the Legal Process of Protection Orders



Gun violence is a serious issue that affects communities throughout California.

If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

On average, someone is killed by a firearm every three hours in our state.* To help put an end to the cycle of gun violence, California has nine types of protection orders that allow courts to take action to safeguard communities.

California's nine protection orders are civil orders that are proven to reduce gun violence by temporarily removing firearms and ammunition from individuals in crisis who are threatening to harm themselves or others. They also prevent the purchase of firearms and ammunition while they are in effect.



The Role of Legal Professionals

Protection Orders provide a legal pathway for loved ones, law enforcement and other qualifying filers to act when an individual is at risk of harming themselves or others. While Protection Orders are life-saving tools, the average person may need help understanding when, why and how to use them.

Legal professionals are trusted resources for individuals who need assistance filing a protection order because of their understanding of the legal process. Helping individuals understand how to use California's nine protection orders can help save lives and protect communities.

Why Protection Orders?

Protection Orders are tools that can help safeguard individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others. Protection orders are:



Civil Orders

They shield those at risk without criminal consequences.



Temporary

Their duration lasts anywhere from 5 to 21 days depending on the type of protection order and can be extended anywhere from 1 to 10 years.



Accessible










Protection orders allow a wider range of eligible petitioners to file and take action.

To learn more about Reduce the Risk, or to schedule a protection order training, visit ReducetheRisk.ca.gov



Protection Order Overview

California has nine types of protection orders, which can be used to safeguard individuals and groups depending on the circumstances. Helping people understand protection orders will ensure they use the correct order for their situation.

	Gun Violence Restraining Order	People who might hurt themselves or others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement • Close family members • Spouse, partner or roommate • Boss or coworker • Teacher at the person's school 	21 days; can be extended 1-5 years
	Domestic Violence Restraining Order	People who have been hurt or scared by someone they are close to (ex: spouse, partner, roommate or family member.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close family members • Spouse or partner • Someone who lives with or used to live with the person 	
	Civil Harassment Restraining Order	People in danger of harassment, stalking, or threats from someone without a close relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have been threatened 	
	Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Restraining Order	Seniors and adults with disabilities facing abuse, neglect or financial harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People over 65 or those 18-64 with physical or intellectual disabilities • OR someone seeking protection for them 	
	Juvenile Restraining Order	Children under 18 being hurt, bullied or threatened. Or someone needing protection from a child being violent or threatening.	People involved in a juvenile court case (ex: parent, guardian, children in the household, probation officers, or social worker seeking protection for or from a juvenile under the care of the court)	
	Postsecondary School Violence Restraining Order	Students at a college or trade school.	A college or trade school leader or someone they appoint	
	Workplace Violence Restraining Order	Employees, volunteers, independent contractors, board of directors and public officers receiving threats in the workplace.	Employers	
	Criminal Protective Order	Victims or witnesses during a criminal case.	A district attorney during a criminal case	Case duration; can extend to 10 years
	Emergency Protective Orders (EPO-001 & EPO-002*) *A GVRO issued on an emergency basis	People who are an immediate risk to themselves or others.	Law enforcement	5 court days or 7 calendar days (Sometimes up to 21 days)