

What is a *Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form EPO-002)?

It is a court order requested by law enforcement that prohibits someone from having any of the following prohibited items:

- i Firearms, including any handgun, rifle, shotgun, and assault weapon;
- i Firearm parts, including any receiver, frame, or unfinished receiver or frame as defined in Penal Code section 16531, also called "ghost guns";
- i Ammunition; and
- i Magazines (any ammunition feeding device).

The person must turn in, sell, or store all prohibited items listed above that they currently own.

For more information about prohibited items, please see <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/restraining-orders/prohibited-items>.

Who can ask for a gun violence emergency protective order?

The gun violence emergency protective order must have been requested by a law enforcement officer and was issued by a judicial officer based on the statements made under penalty of perjury in the protective order.

I've been served with a *Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form EPO-002) and a *Notice of Court Hearing*. What do I do now?

Read the papers served on you very carefully. The *Notice of Court Hearing* or form EPO-002 tells you when to appear for court and where the court is located. If you want to attend the hearing remotely, such as by phone or videoconference, check your local court's website for instructions and availability. Follow the *Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form EPO-002) prohibiting you from having any prohibited items listed above and requiring you to surrender, sell, or store any prohibited items that you currently own or possess. You must obey the order until the expiration date on the form.

**What if I don't obey the emergency protective order?**

The police can arrest you. You can go to jail and pay a fine. You may also be prohibited for a longer period of time from having access to firearms, firearm parts, ammunition, and magazines.

What if I don't want the order to be extended?

If you disagree with the order that has been issued and do not want the court to extend it for a longer time, fill out *Response to Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form GV-020), before your hearing date. File the form with the court and serve it on the requesting law enforcement agency. You can get the form from legal publishers or on the Internet at www.courts.ca.gov/forms. You also may be able to find it at your local courthouse or county law library.

Will I have to pay a filing fee?

No.

Do I have to serve the other person with a copy of my response?

Yes. Have someone age 18 or older—**not you**—mail a copy of the completed *Response to Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (Form GV-020) to the law enforcement agency that issued the *Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form EPO-002). (This is called "service by mail.")

The person who serves the form by mail must fill out *Proof of Service by Mail* (form GV-025). Have the person who did the mailing sign the original form GV-025. Take the completed form back to the court clerk or bring it with you to the hearing.

Should I attend the court hearing?

Yes. You should attend the hearing listed on the *Notice of Court Hearing* or the *Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form EPO-002). You can do so remotely, such as by telephone or videoconference, or go to court in person. If you do not attend the hearing, the judge can extend the order against you for a period of time between 1–5 years without hearing from you.

**Will I see the person who asked for the court order at the court hearing?**

It's possible the law enforcement officer may appear at the court hearing.

Can I attend the court hearing remotely, such as by telephone or videoconference?

Yes. Remote appearances are permitted for parties and witnesses. Check with your local court for instructions on how to appear remotely. Information is also available on the court's website, which you can find at www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm.

**What if I need help to understand English?**

When you file your papers, ask the clerk if a court interpreter is available. You can also use form INT-300, *Request for Interpreter (Civil)*, or a local court form or website to request an interpreter. For more information about court interpreters, go to www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-interpreter.htm.

Can I bring a witness to the court hearing?

Yes. You can bring witnesses or documents that support your case to the hearing. But if possible, you should also bring the witnesses' written statements of what they saw or heard. Their statements must be made under penalty of perjury. (You can use *Declaration* (form MC-030) for this purpose.)

What if I have a disability?

If you have a disability and need an accommodation while you are at court, you can use form MC-410, *Disability Accommodation Request*, to make your request. You can also ask the ADA Coordinator in your court for help. For more information, see form MC-410-INFO, *How to Request a Disability Accommodation for Court*,

Do I need a lawyer?

Having a lawyer is always a good idea, but it is not required, and you are not entitled to a free, court-appointed attorney. Ask the court clerk about free and low-cost legal services and self-help centers in your county.

For help in your area, contact:

[Local information may be inserted.]

How long does the order last?

The *Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form EPO-002) will last until the expiration date listed on the front of the form in item 3. The court will decide at the hearing whether to issue a gun violence restraining order that can last for a period of time between 1–5 years.