

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 guns, ammunition, or magazines (any ammunition feeding device). The person must surrender all guns, ammunition, and magazines that they currently own.



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 in court and where the court is located. Follow the *Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order* (form EPO-002) prohibiting you from having any guns, ammunition, or magazines and requiring you to surrender, sell, or store any guns, ammunition, or magazines 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 and ammunition.



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. 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 go to the court hearing?

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

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.)

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.

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.

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.

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

When you file your papers, ask your court's clerk or self-help center if your court will provide an interpreter. To request an interpreter, you may use form INT-300. You should also check your local court's website via Find My Court for additional information on how to request an interpreter for a civil matter. If an interpreter is not available for your court date, you should ask someone who is over age 18 to interpret for you.

What if I am deaf or hard of hearing?

Assistive listening systems, computer-assisted real-time captioning, or sign language interpreter services are available if you ask at least five court days before the hearing. Contact the clerk's office or go to www.courts.ca.gov/forms for *Request for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities and Response* (form MC-410). (Civ. Code, § 54.8.)

For help in your area, contact:

[Local information may be inserted.]