

Resources for Social Workers to Prevent Firearm-Related Harm

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Intervening to Prevent Firearm-Related Harm

Intervention options that could be included as part of a robust safety plan collaboratively developed with client:

- Recommend more secure storage of firearm in-home (e.g., lock firearm and ammunition separately)
- Give client a firearm locking mechanism (e.g., lockbox)
- Work with client's family or friends to facilitate voluntary firearm removal
- Recommend voluntary, out-of-home community storage
- Recommend extreme risk protection order (ERPO)

Factors influencing recommendations

- Social & medical history
- Past behavior during crisis
- Family & community history of suicide
- Protective factors
- Current & planned access to firearms
- Ability to reduce access
- Risk of harm from medical and legal systems

Types of Firearm Locking Mechanisms

Lockbox



Cable Lock



Gun Safe



Life Jacket



On the following page are resources, trainings, and more information about how social workers can support clients at risk of firearm-related harm. Links can be accessed via a virtual version of the flyer with this QR code.



Temporarily Reducing Firearm Access During Crisis

- [Lock To Live](#) is an interactive website that helps you and your client build a tailored safety plan
- [Washington State firearm safe storage map](#) is an interactive map of gun shops, shooting ranges, and police stations willing to consider requests for temporary firearm storage
- [Lock It Up](#) (King County) is designed to educate health professionals on how to facilitate conversations with clients about firearm storage option.
- [Children's of Wisconsin](#) has a hand-out for parents on safe firearm storage after their child attempts suicide
- The [BulletPoints Project](#) has several clinical tools for preventing firearm injury

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

- Civil (not criminal) order that **temporarily** restricts the possession and purchase of firearms for an individual (called a respondent) if their behavior indicates they might be at **substantial risk of harming themselves and/or others**
- In Washington, only a **family/household member** or **law enforcement officer** may file an ERPO petition. As a social worker, you cannot file this petition for a client, but you could contact their family/household member or a law enforcement officer to suggest one
- The petition goes before a judge, who determines whether the respondent should have their firearm access temporarily restricted
- If approved, law enforcement enforces the ERPO by removing firearms from the respondent and places their name on a list to prohibit purchase
- This [website](#) describes the ERPO process in detail and answers FAQs for both petitioners and respondents
- This [website](#) describes other types of civil protection orders that might be appropriate for your client

Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights (Do-Not-Sell) List

- Lets people voluntarily and confidentially restrict immediate access to firearm purchase
- Stops impulsive firearm purchasing at the time when someone is in crisis, and can be reversed by the individual
- Instructions on filing found [here](#)

Selected Other Trainings and Resources for Clinicians

- The [Joyce Foundation](#) stores recorded webinars on intimate partner violence, equity issues, firearm ownership, and policy trends
- The [University of Michigan](#) Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention hosts a course on the science of firearm injury prevention among children and teens

More Information

- For more information or to ask any questions, you can contact [Kelsey Conrick \(kmc621@uw.edu\)](mailto:kmc621@uw.edu) or visit fiprp.uw.edu

