

SPEAK FOR SAFETY

ILLINOIS

Illinois' Firearms Restraining Order

A PREVENTION TOOL FOR FAMILIES

"My son has been struggling at college and has alienated himself from his friends. Lately he has been posting violent content online and going to a shooting range. He owns a number of guns, and I am worried that he's going through a crisis and needs help."

"My brother, who is an ex-cop, has seemed very unhappy for the last few months and has told his daughter she is better off without him. He keeps many guns around his home, and I am worried about suicide—what can I do?"

"My roommate was fired from his job recently and has isolated himself in his room since. We've tried to talk to him but he refuses to say much. He previously attempted suicide and we are worried he may purchase a gun and try again."

A NEW LAW CAN HELP!

Illinois' Firearms Restraining Order (FRO) law allows family members and law enforcement officers to obtain a court order that temporarily prohibits an at-risk person from accessing firearms, or purchasing or obtaining any new firearms. If you think there is a strong chance that a family member or roommate, would harm themselves or others, getting a FRO can be an important first step to reduce the risk of harm.

Note: If you are in immediate danger, please contact local law enforcement or dial 911.

WHO CAN REQUEST A FRO AND HOW DO YOU GET ONE?

Family members* and law enforcement officers can file a petition to obtain a FRO with the Circuit Court in which the person about whom you are worried resides. If a loved one is experiencing an emotional crisis or is demonstrating signs of being dangerous such as suicidal thoughts, aggression, public threats of violence, or is exhibiting other dangerous behaviors, you can consider contacting your local sheriff or police department, to inform them of a dangerous situation.

**Includes spouse, parent, grandparent, child, or step-child of the respondent, or a person who shares a common dwelling with the respondent. See relationship code on FRO petition form for all eligible relationship statuses.*

A CIVIL ACTION

The FRO is a civil procedure, not a criminal one. The goal is to ensure safety and allow the subject of the FRO an opportunity to heal or stabilize. However, if the order is violated, the subject may be charged with a misdemeanor crime. Only when the order expires or is terminated may firearms and Firearm Owner Identification Card be returned to the restrained person.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ILLINOIS' FRO

- Emergency FROs are issued on 'Ex Parte' basis, meaning they can be issued without the respondent present.
- If someone is being threatened directly by a spouse, partner, or someone in their family or household, they may petition for other types of orders of protection. Visit illinoislegalaid.com for more information.
- There are no court and filing fees for petitioning for a FRO. This includes fees associated with having law enforcement serve a FRO.

DID YOU KNOW?

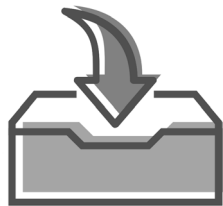
- In 2017, there were 577 firearm-related suicides in Illinois.***
- One out of every three suicides in Illinois involve guns.***
- A recent study examined the results of a similar law in Connecticut and estimated that for every 10 to 20 orders removing firearms issued, at least one suicide was prevented.

***Source: CDC WONDER <https://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>

HOW CAN I SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE FRO TO SPEAK FOR SAFETY?



Contact your local Circuit Court office and ask if they have heard of the FRO.



Download our resources Illinois.SpeakForSafety.org.



Work within your agency or organization to ensure that your colleague know about the FRO as a tool to prevent gun violence