

SPEAK FOR SAFETY

ILLINOIS

Illinois' Firearms Restraining Order

**PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CAN
SPEAK FOR SAFETY**

"My department leads efforts to reduce gun violence in our community, which is mostly rural with many households owning guns. Our rate of firearm-related deaths and suicides is higher than most other counties. I've heard about the FRO but I'd like to know more about how it would help our population." - Public Health Officer

"An Alzheimer's support coalition in our community wants to know what laws can help them protect families and Alzheimer's patients from harming themselves or others with guns in a crisis situation." - Community Health Worker

A NEW LAW CAN HELP!

Illinois' Firearms Restraining Order (FRO) allows family members and law enforcement officers to obtain a court order that temporarily prohibits an at-risk person from accessing firearms or obtaining any new firearms. Family members* and law enforcement officers** can file a petition¹ to obtain a FRO, which can last from 14 days up to six months. A six-month FRO can be renewed before it expires if the danger still exists.

**Includes spouse, parent, grandparent, child, or step-child of the respondent, or a person who shares a common dwelling with the respondent (roommates). See relationship code on FRO petition form¹ for all eligible relationship statuses.*

***Includes sheriff's departments, police departments, and other law enforcement agencies.*

WHY IS A FRO AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH?

Educating community members and families about the FRO can help reduce the potential for danger when a gun is present in the home of someone who is at risk of harming themselves or others. FROs empower the people who are traditionally aware that a loved one is dangerous or in crisis to remove his or her access to guns and prevent a tragedy. The FRO law gives standing to the individuals who are most likely to notice the warning signs of dangerousness, such as family members and law enforcement officers, and allows them to disarm a loved one or individual who poses a threat to the health and safety of themselves or others. A FRO works as a prevention measure, making it an important tool in the effort to combat the epidemic of gun violence in the United States.

¹ <http://champaigncircuitclerk.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Approved-FRO-Petition-01-18-19.pdf>

FROS AND OTHER RESTRAINING ORDERS

FROs are civil orders specifically designed to ensure safety and allow the person being restrained the opportunity to heal or stabilize away from firearms. It is important to recognize that a FRO is not the only order of protection available to individuals in Illinois. For more information on the different types of orders of protection, visit [here](#).

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ILLINOIS' FRO

- If someone poses an immediate danger to themselves or others, an emergency FRO can be filed and served on the same day.
- If the judge issues a six-month order, within three months before its expiration the petitioner may file a request for the renewal of the FRO with the court if the respondent of the FRO is still a risk to themselves or others.
- 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.org](#) 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.

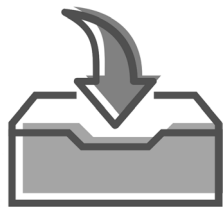
DID YOU KNOW?

- On average, there are more than 6,000 Veteran suicides each year.²
- 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.
- In a poll by Aging Life Care Association on the presence of firearms in elders' homes, over one-third of professionals surveyed said they either frequently or sometimes had guns in their clients' homes, and several respondents recounted stories of suicides by clients that took place while professional caregivers were in the home.

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

² https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/OMHSP_National_Suicide_Data_Report_2005-2016_508.pdf
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