

2025 STATE OF THE POLICY

Extreme Risk Protection Orders



Firearm Injury
Prevention Initiative

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS (ERPO) IN COLORADO



Passed into law in 2019 (HB19-1777), ERPOs are designed to be used in situations in which someone poses a **significant and immediate risk** of harming themselves or others, and firearm access increases this risk.



ERPOs approved by judges temporarily **remove firearms** from a person's possession and prevent them from legally purchasing, or otherwise receiving a firearm **while the order is in effect**.



ERPOs are **one tool in a toolbox to prevent firearm injuries**. They may not be right for all situations and are not a stand-alone or one-size-fits-all solution.

WHO CAN FILE AN ERPO IN COLORADO?



Law enforcement officers



Family or household members*

In April 2023, the law was expanded to allow additional groups to file:



Healthcare or mental health professionals**

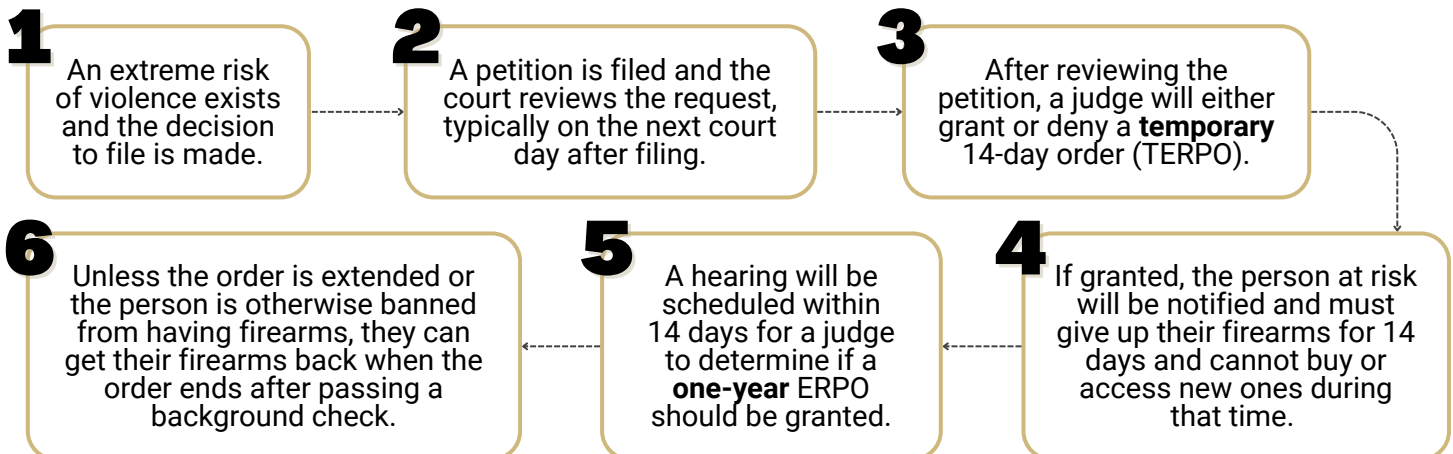


K-12 and higher education educators and administrators***



District Attorneys

HOW DOES THE ERPO PROCESS WORK IN COLORADO?

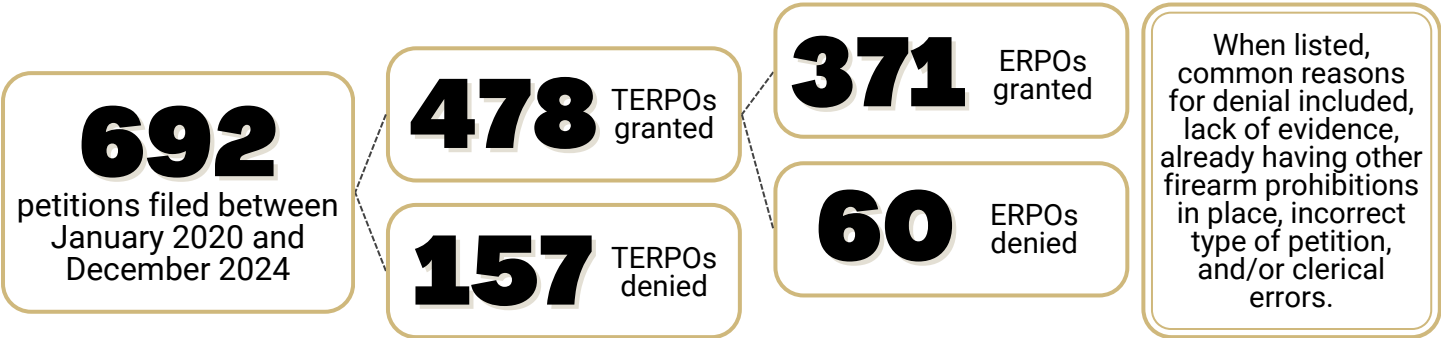


*A detailed list of who is considered a family or household member can be found on the [Colorado Judicial Branch's website](#).

**Petitioner must have provided care to the person at risk, or their child, within the last six months.

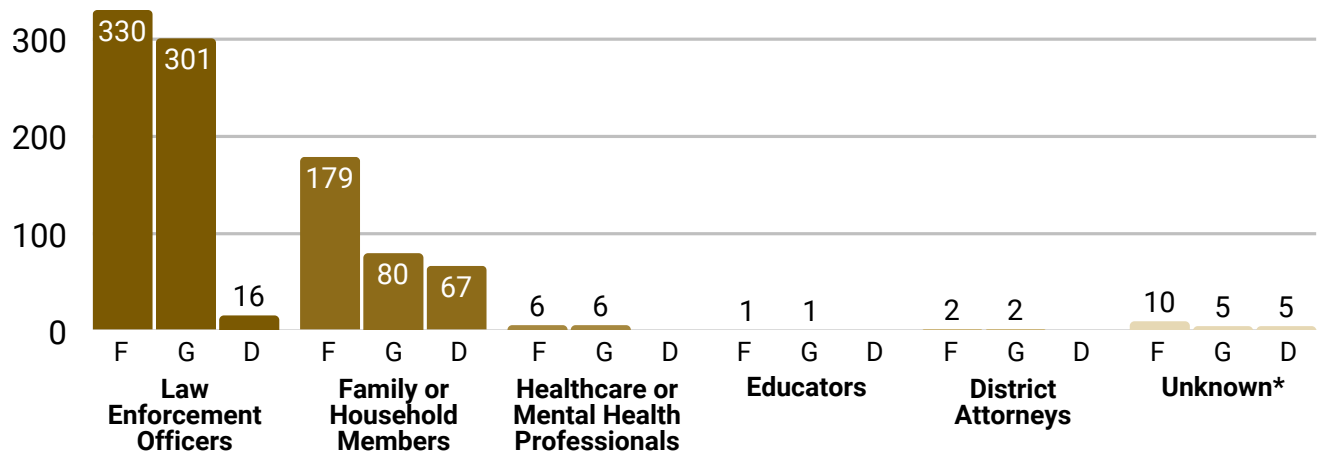
***Petitioner must have, through a direct professional relationship, interacted with the person at risk, or their child, within the last six months.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT ERPOS IN COLORADO?



TERPO and ERPO grantees and denials do not equal the total number of petitions filed because in some cases petitions were dismissed by the court (usually in cases where an alternative outcome was pursued) or the court records did not include outcomes of the cases.

WHO FILED ERPOS IN COLORADO BETWEEN JANUARY 2020 & DECEMBER 2024?

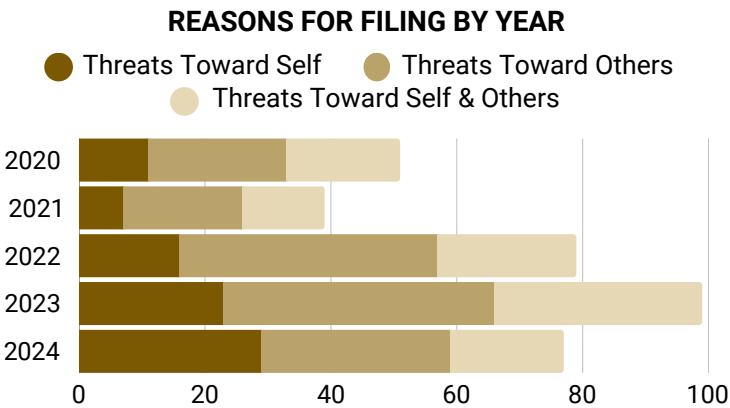
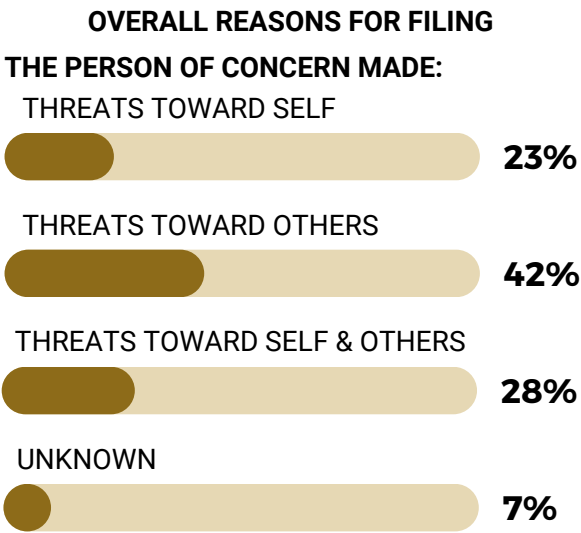


F = Filed | G = Granted | D = Denied

*A petitioner may be "unknown" because that information was not provided on the form or it was redacted by the courts.

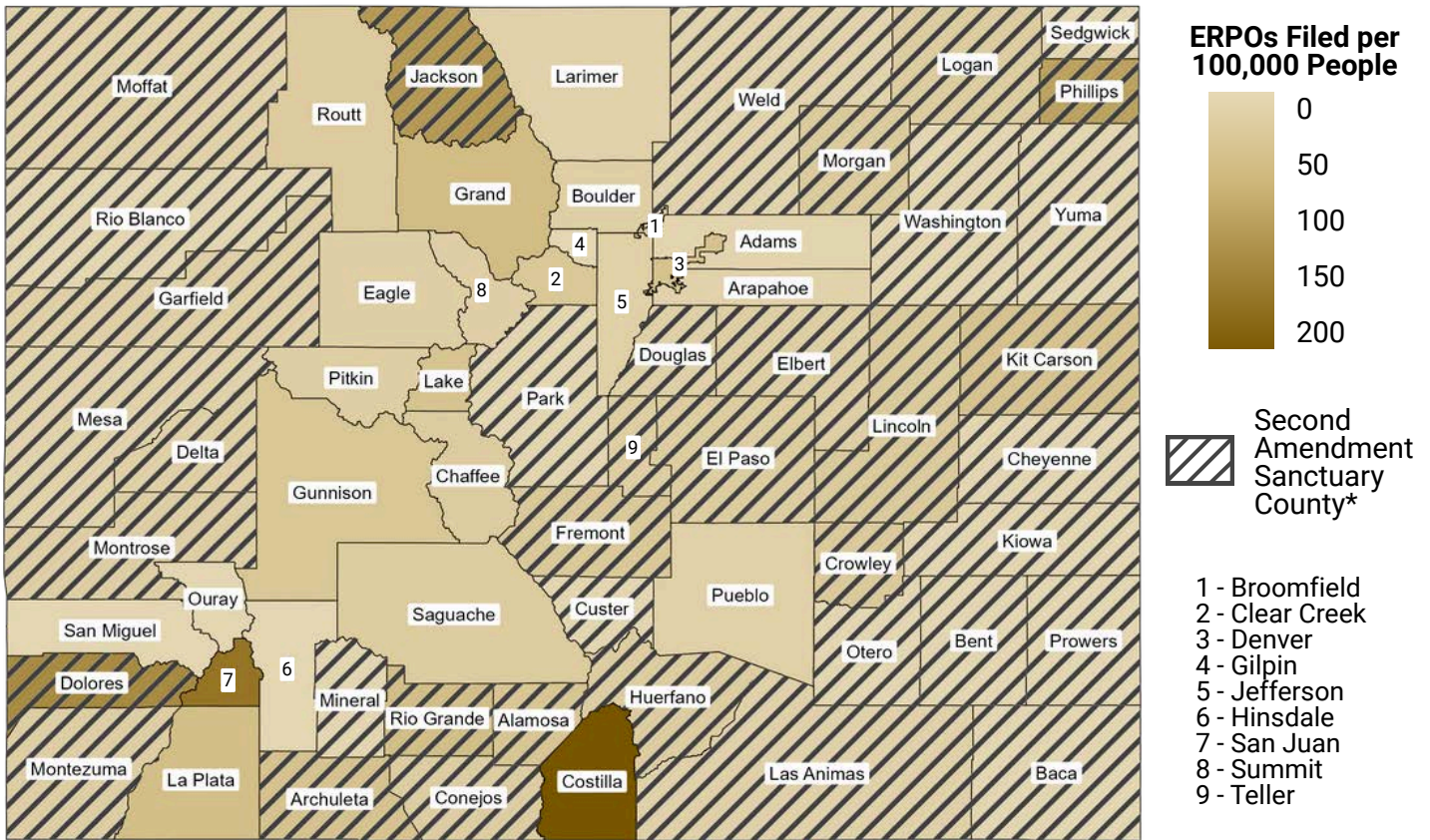
WHY ARE PEOPLE FILING ERPOS IN COLORADO?

Data are limited due to missing information in some petitions.



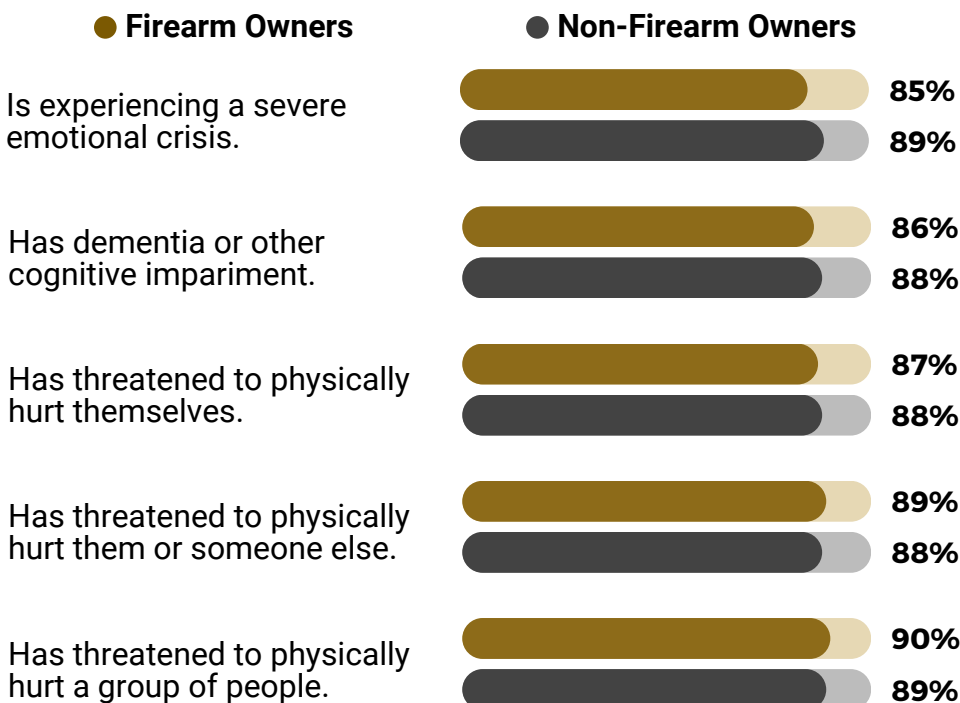
Over the past two years, we have seen an increase in the use of ERPOs to address threats towards self, indicating a growing use of ERPOs as a tool in preventing self-harm.

WHERE ARE ERPOS BEING FILED IN COLORADO?



*Second Amendment Sanctuaries are local jurisdictions that have passed non-binding proclamations stating they are in opposition to some or all firearm-related legislation that they consider to be unconstitutional and restrictive of their Second Amendment rights. Many of these counties still file for and grant ERPOs. In Colorado, 39 of Colorado's 64 counties consider themselves 2A sanctuaries, as indicated on the map with stripes.

COLORADANS BELIEVE USING AN ERPO IS AT LEAST SOMETIMES APPROPRIATE WHEN A PERSON:



85%

of Colorado adults are aware that ERPOs exist in Colorado

Data collected in the COFIPS 2023 administration.

WHAT DOES THIS POLICY MEAN FOR COLORADANS?

ERPOs have the potential to improve public safety and reduce firearm-related harms while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

Most Coloradans – gun owners or not – will never be involved with the ERPO process.

ERPOs should be part of a solution for safety if immediate action is needed and other options are not possible or are ineffective.

RESOURCES

Instructions on how to file an ERPO petition.



"What is an ERPO?" resource



The [Colorado ERPO Hotline](#) (855-999-ERPO) can provide county-specific resources on the process to file an ERPO petition. The hotline cannot help with filing the paperwork, nor can it give legal advice or counsel on what happens after you file your petition.

Visit the **Colorado Firearm Data Dashboard** to learn more about how ERPOs are being used in Colorado.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will an ERPO go on a criminal record?

ERPOs do not create a criminal record unless the order is violated. They are a part of the public record as civil orders.

Are ERPOs inappropriately used or falsely filed?

Of all ERPOs filed in Colorado between 2020 and 2024, less than 3% were determined to be inappropriately used or falsely filed and all were denied.

What other options can be considered before an ERPO?

If you are worried about the safety of someone who has access to firearms, you can first try to take action together to temporarily limit their access. Options include introducing the use of secure storage devices, adjusting current secure storage practices, or arranging temporary out-of-home storage (e.g., at a firearm retailer) for the duration of the crisis. [Explore secure storage resources.](#)

Are ERPOs effective in reducing firearm-involved violence?

Research suggests that for every 10-15 ERPOs granted, one suicide death can be prevented. Ongoing studies are looking at if ERPOs prevent mass shootings, homicides, and other firearm-involved injuries and deaths.

Unless otherwise mentioned, all data comes from the 2025 Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Survey and the abstraction of extreme risk protection orders in Colorado.



Learn how we collected & analyzed data.