



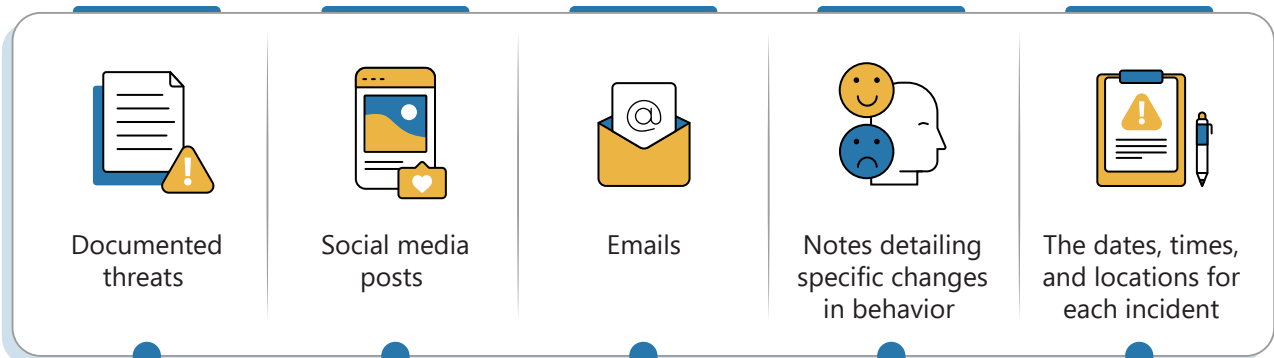
# An ERPO Petition Flowchart



Filing an ERPO is a structured legal process designed to prevent self-harm and violence. This guide provides a step-by-step overview to help educators navigate the process and collaborate with school resources effectively.

## 1 Document the Threatening Behavior

Collect clear evidence that demonstrates the respondent may be at risk to themselves or others.



Compiling all relevant evidence strengthens the case for an ERPO and makes it more compelling for the court.

## 2 Complete the ERPO Petition Forms

**Complete the following forms:**

1. [Temporary ERPO petition \(JDF 573\)](#)
2. [Extreme Risk Protection Order Information Sheet \(JDF 577\)](#)

An educator can petition on their own, but a school administrator, a member of the threat assessment team, or law enforcement may petition on the educator's behalf.

These forms require detailed information about the respondent, their concerning behavior, and why they may pose a risk.

Forms are available at any courthouse in Colorado or online through the [Colorado Judicial Branch website](#).

### 3 File the Petition at the Courthouse

Submit the TERPO petition and ERPO Information Sheet in person at the courthouse in the county where the respondent resides.

- ➔ Petitions cannot be filed anonymously, so the petitioner's name or the name of an alternative member of the threat assessment team must be provided.
- ➔ There's no filing fee.

### 4 Attend the TERPO Hearing

- ➔ The court schedules a temporary ERPO (TERPO) hearing the same day the petition is filed. During this hearing, the judge reviews the evidence to determine if a TERPO should be issued.
- ➔ The petitioner must attend in person, except for exceptional circumstances.
- ➔ The respondent will not be notified of the initial hearing.
- ➔ If approved, the TERPO will last up to 14 days and restrict the respondent from possessing or purchasing firearms.

### 5 Law Enforcement Serves the Order

If the TERPO is granted, law enforcement will serve the order on the respondent. They are also responsible for ensuring any firearms are confiscated and notifying the relevant federal and state agencies to prevent further firearm purchases.

6

## Prepare for the ERPO Hearing

Within 14 days of issuing the TERPO, a hearing is scheduled to determine if a 364-day ERPO is necessary.

Petitioners are encouraged to submit additional available affidavits or evidence about significant risk to the court either prior to or on the day of the hearing. Petitioners may also bring other witnesses who can testify as needed.

7

## Attend the ERPO Hearing

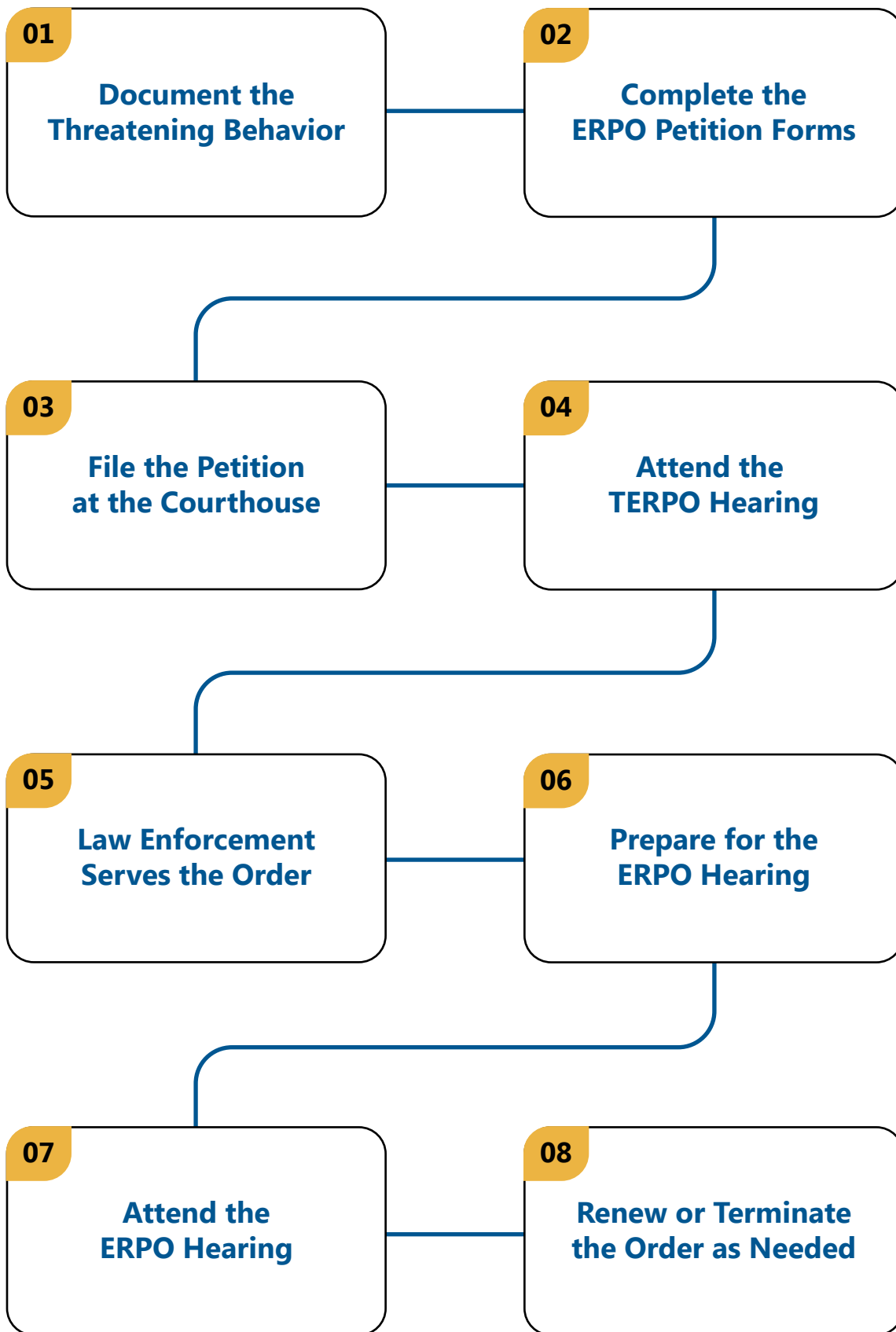
At the hearing, each side will have an opportunity to present their evidence and call witnesses.

- ➔ The respondent is provided a lawyer for free if they cannot afford one.
- ➔ If a ERPO is granted, the order will restrict firearm access for up to 364 days.

8

## Renew or Terminate the Order as Needed

At the end of the year, petitioners have the option to request a renewal of the ERPO if there are still safety concerns. The respondent can also request that the order be terminated early if they can provide evidence that they no longer pose a risk.





## Grant Acknowledgment and Disclaimer

This project was supported by Grant No.

**15PBJA-23-GG-00005-BSCI** awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, issued by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office.

Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, or the Colorado Department of Law.