



Petitioning for an ERPO Discussion Guide



Use this guide to confidently navigate conversations about extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs) and determine the next steps to protect students and staff.

Setting the Stage



Create a shared understanding of the ERPO process and establish a collaborative tone.

Opening Statements

- ➔ **Begin by explaining what an ERPO is.**
“An ERPO is a legal measure that temporarily restricts firearm access for individuals at risk of harming themselves or others. It’s a proactive tool to prevent potential harm.”
- ➔ **Emphasize the shared goal:** Safety for the school and community

Discussion Starters

- ➔ “What specific incidents or concerns have been observed that prompted this discussion?”
- ➔ “What interventions have already been attempted, and what were the outcomes?”

Practical Tip: Print and share the Guide to Completing an ERPO Petition with colleagues to ensure a clear understanding of what's required.

Evaluating Evidence



Build consensus about what constitutes credible evidence for filing an ERPO.

Guiding Questions

- ➔ “What specific behaviors, statements, or incidents suggest a significant risk?”
- ➔ “Do we have documented proof of firearm access or possession?”
- ➔ “Who else might have observed concerning behavior and can provide corroborating affidavits?”

Key Considerations

- ➔ Documentation should be detailed, including dates, times, and locations.
- ➔ Counseling notes and law enforcement records are valuable evidence.

Involving Others



Foster collaboration with colleagues, law enforcement, and mental health professionals.

Discussion Starters

- ➔ “Who needs to be involved in this process to ensure it is thorough and effective?”
- ➔ “Should law enforcement file the ERPO, or will the school take the lead?”
- ➔ “Are there additional mental health resources or community services we can involve?”

Practical Tip: If law enforcement declines to file the ERPO, explain that educators, school administrators, or other faculty can still proceed independently. Provide the Guide to Completing an ERPO Petition as a resource for moving forward.

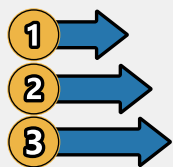
Overcoming Concerns



Address questions and challenges that arise during the discussion.

Concerns	Responses
1 "What if filing an ERPO damages our relationship with the student or their family?"	"The ERPO process is about protection, not punishment. It's a temporary measure to ensure safety while other interventions are explored."
2 "Do we have enough evidence to justify filing an ERPO?"	"We will focus on presenting detailed documentation, supported by affidavits, that clearly demonstrates significant risk."
3 "What if the judge doesn't grant the ERPO?"	"Even if an ERPO isn't granted, this process highlights the need for continued monitoring and intervention to ensure safety."

Planning Next Steps



Create a clear plan for moving forward with the ERPO process.

Discussion Starters

- ➔ "Who will act as the petitioner, and what steps will they take next?"
- ➔ "What additional documentation or affidavits do we need to collect?"
- ➔ "What is our timeline for filing the ERPO and preparing for the hearing?"

Conclusion and Additional Resources

Every conversation about filing an ERPO is an opportunity to protect your community. By focusing on collaboration, credible evidence, and a clear plan, you can ensure the process is thorough and effective.

For additional guidance, refer to the following:

- ➔ [Colorado Judicial Branch ERPO Overview Page](#)
- ➔ Navigating Common ERPO Challenges (downloadable resource)
- ➔ Guide to Completing an ERPO Petition (downloadable resource)



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