

# SPEAK FOR SAFETY

Speak for Safety is a campaign to raise awareness of the Gun Violence Restraining Order, a historic, first-of-its-kind tool in California for temporarily removing firearms from loved ones in crisis.

## WHAT IS A GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDER?

Family members are often the first to know when a loved one is in a crisis and at risk of harming his or herself, or others. A common thread in many acts of violence is that family members saw their loved ones engage in dangerous behaviors and grew concerned even before any violence occurred.

California's Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) offers family members, household members, and law enforcement a tool for temporarily removing a firearm from loved ones in crisis. A GVRO offers an opportunity for a loved one to access help and care that could stop a violent situation from occurring.



01

**REQUEST AN APPLICATION**  
Request an application from your local county courthouse.

STEP 1



02

STEP 2

**COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**  
Complete and file the GVRO application with the court clerk.



03

**A JUDGE ISSUES AN INITIAL RULING**  
If judge issues an ex-parte order, restrained party is served with a copy of the order and firearms are removed for 21 days.

STEP 3



04

STEP 4

**ATTEND HEARING**  
Attend the required court hearing and if judge finds clear and convincing evidence in support of the petition a 1-year order is issued prohibiting the purchase and possession of firearms for the restrained party.



## HOW A GVRO WORKS

A GVRO is a civil court order that temporarily prohibits an individual who is in crisis from possessing or purchasing any guns or ammunition. It is used to protect someone who is at risk of harm to self or others by having a firearm.

By temporarily removing guns already possessed and prohibiting new gun purchases, the GVRO creates safer circumstances for individuals to seek treatment (e.g. for substance use, mental disorders) or engage other resources to address the underlying causes of the dangerous behaviors. Modeled after the success of domestic violence restraining orders in all 50 states, the GVRO has the potential to stop future tragedies.

## HOW TO ACCESS A GVRO

If you are concerned about a family member or partner's potential to commit violence and would like more information on how to access a Gun Violence Restraining Order, please visit:

[WWW.SPEAKFORSAFETY.ORG](http://WWW.SPEAKFORSAFETY.ORG)

DISCLAIMER: This website does not provide legal advice and information is intended for general informational purposes only. If you need legal advice, please contact an attorney directly.

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911 OR VISIT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**

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