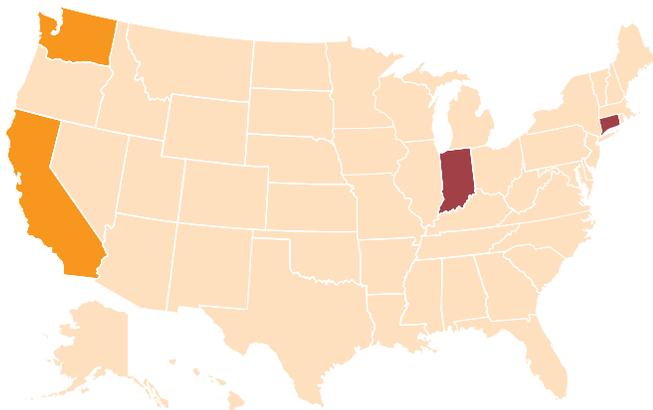


GUN VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDERS

A Gun Violence Protection Order (GVPO) empowers families and law enforcement to prevent gun tragedies by allowing them to petition a court to **temporarily remove guns from individuals at an elevated risk of endangering themselves or others**. A GVPO prohibits a person experiencing a mental health crisis from accessing firearms and requires him or her to relinquish any guns they possess while the order is in effect.

Temporarily Disarming People who are a Danger to Self or Others



■ States that allow family members and law enforcement to request orders to disarm dangerous people

■ States that allow law enforcement only to request orders to disarm dangerous people

Two states have GVPO laws in effect and two additional states allow law enforcement officials to ask a court to disarm a dangerous individual.

22,000

Americans die by firearm suicide each year, almost two-thirds of all gun deaths.



GVPO LAWS SAVE LIVES

A study by researchers at Duke University showed that for every 10.5 guns removed from an individual in crisis using Connecticut's GVPO law, **one suicide was prevented**.

85%

of suicide attempts with a gun are fatal, making it the most lethal of the commonly available means of suicide in the US.

90%

of people who survive a suicide attempt do not ultimately die by suicide. Even if laws cannot prevent all people from attempting suicide, restricting access to firearms significantly increases the likelihood of survival.

GVPO'S FILL AN IMPORTANT GAP

The first GVPO was enacted after the 2014 mass shooting near the University of California, Santa Barbara, that killed six and injured fourteen. The shooter had previously exhibited highly dangerous behavior, and his parents, concerned, contacted the police, who briefly interviewed him but had no legal authority to remove his guns.

Situations like this leave family members and law enforcement with limited options. Fortunately, GVPOs now provide a legal process for intervention.

Generally, under the laws of most states, only individuals who have been adjudicated mentally ill or convicted of certain crimes, or are subject to domestic violence protection orders, are prohibited from accessing firearms. GVPOs allow intervention before a person has appeared before a judge or other adjudicator.

Prior to 2014, Connecticut and Indiana enacted laws that allow law enforcement (but not family members) to petition a court for an order disarming a person who is imminently dangerous. The main difference between these laws and the gun violence protection order laws enacted in California and Washington is that the latter empower family members to seek disarmament in addition to law enforcement. **GVPOs allow those who are most likely to notice signs that a loved one is at a high risk of violence to prove to a court that legal intervention is necessary to prevent a tragedy.**

FAQs about GVPOs

- **The court must consider evidence** of recent threats or acts of violence by the at-risk individual, and his or her recent violations of domestic violence orders. The court may also consider other evidence that is indicative of an increased risk for violence.
- An **ex parte GVPO** lasts for 21 days or fewer if an individual poses an immediate risk of harm to self or others in the near future.
- Spouses, cohabitating couples, guardians, children, parents, siblings, and people in a current or former dating relationship **may qualify to seek a GVPO.**
- After a hearing at which the respondent has the opportunity to appear, **the court may issue a GVPO that lasts for one year** if he or she poses a significant danger of injury to self or others.

For more details and underlying research, visit smartgunlaws.org/GVPO

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160+

new smart gun laws have been enacted in 43 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

114,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.

ABOUT US

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence are committed to advancing commonsense change that makes communities safer from gun violence. Operating out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York, our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates to craft and enact the smart gun laws that save lives. We provide expertise in firearms litigation, lead grassroots coalitions, and educate the public on the proven solutions to America's gun violence epidemic.

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