People who carry out violence against themselves or others often exhibit dangerous behavior and warning signs. Restricting firearm access in these moments of crisis is a critical way to prevent gun violence and save lives. Extreme risk laws give law enforcement a process to do just that.

These laws enable law enforcement and, in some states, other key members of the community to petition the court for an order to temporarily restrict a person’s access to firearms. As of January 2020, seventeen states and the District of Columbia have enacted some form of an extreme risk law. This lifesaving tool should be available to law enforcement and concerned family members in every state.

Giffords Law Center’s first-of-its-kind analysis details how Florida’s extreme risk law was used to prevent gun violence in Broward County, home of the deadly Parkland school shooting that prompted the law’s adoption. This in-depth case-by-case examination shows how extreme risk laws provide a much-needed tool to help intervene before violence escalates.

- **255** unique petitions filed in Broward County between March 9, 2018 and March 9, 2019
- Ex parte (temporary) orders were granted in all cases. Judges granted final orders in **87%** of cases
- Firearms were seized or surrendered in **53%** of cases
- **412** total guns seized
- Average of **3** guns per seizure
- **67** guns surrendered by one individual
Recommendations for Key Stakeholders

Legislators, law enforcement, and the courts all play a vital role in implementing extreme risk protection orders. Our recommendations for each stakeholder group were informed by Broward County case files, conversations with on-the-ground implementers, and Giffords Law Center’s experience drafting and implementing these laws in states around the country.

**LEGISLATORS**

- Pass Extreme Risk Laws in all 50 States
- Allow Family Members to Petition
- Require Firearm Surrender to Law Enforcement or Licensed Dealer

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- Develop Local Protocols
- Require Training on ERPOs and Intersection with Other Laws
- Designate a Legal Advisor or Attorney for Law Enforcement

**COURTS**

- Make Appropriate Judicial Assignments
- Require Judicial Trainings
- Ensure Compliance with Firearm Surrender

For more details, visit: giffordslawcenter.org/broward

Leverage the legal and policy acumen of our experts to pass and effectively implement extreme risk laws in your state. For assistance, please email lawcenter@giffords.org