



PAUSE TO HEAL

By temporarily removing access to a gun, a **Firearm Restraining Order** can give a person in crisis the time they need to heal.



Illinois.gov/PauseToHeal

INTRODUCTION

In any crisis, time is precious. Those in crisis need time to think things over, to seek help, and to heal. But a bullet doesn't wait for someone to recover. So, when a loved one is saying or doing something that suggests they intend to harm themselves or someone else, access to a firearm can create a dangerous situation. A Firearm Restraining Order (FRO) is a lifesaving tool that puts time and space between a person in crisis and a firearm.

WHAT IS A FIREARM RESTRAINING ORDER?

A FRO is a civil - not criminal - procedure in Illinois that allows family, household members, and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily restrict a person's access to firearms while they pose an imminent danger to themselves or others. FROs are a resource that can help prevent gun injuries and deaths, including firearm suicide.

WHO CAN PETITION FOR A FIREARM RESTRAINING ORDER?

In Illinois, a **family or household member** or **law enforcement** can ask a circuit court for a FRO to temporarily limit firearm access for a "respondent," the individual who presents an imminent risk of injuring themselves or others.

FAMILY MEMBER

A spouse, former spouse, person with whom the respondent has a minor child in common, parent, child, or stepchild of the respondent, or any other person related by blood or present marriage to the respondent

HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

A person who shares a common dwelling with the respondent

HOW A FIREARM RESTRAINING ORDER WORKS

- 1** File a petition for a Firearm Restraining Order (FRO) with the circuit court in the county where the respondent resides or where the threatening incident occurred.
- 2** The same day or next day the court determines if an emergency FRO will be issued. If issued, the person must temporarily hand over all firearms in their possession and their FOID card.
- 3** The judge holds a final hearing within **14 days** to determine if the person poses a significant danger of personal injury to themselves or others.
- 4** Finally, the judge makes a decision.
 - A** Issue final order: Person prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms for up to a year.
 - B** Deny the order: Any firearms surrendered under the emergency order are returned.

Learn more about the life-saving power
of FROs at Illinois.gov/PausetoHeal

Learn More



The “Pause to Heal” campaign is a partnership between the Illinois Department of Public Health, Brady: United Against Gun Violence, and the Ad Council with the goal of raising awareness of Firearm Restraining Orders as a life-saving resource for Illinoisans.

