

## APPENDIX A: EXTREME RISK LAW STORIES

The following stories provide a few illustrations of Extreme Risk laws—sometimes referred to as “Red Flag” laws or gun violence restraining orders (GVROs)—being used to temporarily remove firearms from dangerous situations. When a person is in crisis and considering harming themselves or others, family members and law enforcement are often the first people to see the warning signs. These laws are designed to provide a tool to defuse dangerous situations while also providing due process and a system of checks and balances.

The stories are presented by intent and by timing, including both month and year, when known. Everytown compiled these stories from media reports and publicly available databases. While they do not cover every case where an order was issued under an Extreme Risk law, these stories provide important examples of the vital role of Extreme Risk laws in preventing people in crisis from accessing firearms.

Learn more about Extreme Risk laws at <https://everytownresearch.org/extreme-risk-laws/>

### DANGER OF HARMING OTHERS

#### JULY 2016 • CAMPBELL, CA

A woman contacted the Campbell Police Department after her husband sent her a threatening text referencing a recent sniper attack in Dallas, TX, then loaded his guns into his car and departed. After an order was issued, police removed seven weapons, including a scoped rifle, from the man’s place of work.<sup>1</sup>

#### MAY 2018 • BROWARD COUNTY, FL

Courthouse employees grew concerned after a Broward County bailiff simulated shooting people from the fifth-floor atrium, calling them “easy prey.” A judge ordered 67 firearms, including an AR-15, to be removed from the bailiff’s home for a year following a hearing.<sup>2</sup>

#### 2018 • PENDLETON, OR

After a man was fired from his job, police reported that he was planning to return to his previous place of work to shoot his boss. His sister confronted him outside of his home, at which point he threatened to kill her as well if she did not let him leave. The confrontation resulted in the man not leaving and hiding his gun in a storage shed. A judge issued an order to have the firearms removed.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2018 • MIAMI-DADE, FL

In Miami-Dade, a man frequently used a gun to threaten his mother, and had said that “the boy did a good job,” referring to the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. He was previously convicted of using a firearm under the influence and had been taken to a mental health facility in the past. Miami-Dade Police obtained an order for the 29-year-old man who began shooting a gun inside and outside his house and removed two assault rifles, two handguns, and ammunition.<sup>4</sup>

#### 2018 • SAN DIEGO, CA

A 79-year-old man allegedly shot a city worker and was placed in custody. Police were concerned about the man having access to firearms if he were to be released out on bail and they requested and received an order. Police removed an AR-15 with a 200-round drum magazine, 34 other rifles, and 21 handguns.<sup>5</sup>

**2018 • MONROE, WA**

A man posted a stream of hateful comments online about killing Jews in a synagogue and kids in a school. In one post, he reportedly wrote that he was "shooting for 30 Jews," and in another posted about replicating the actions of the white supremacist who killed nine people at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. The Snohomish County Sheriff's office was granted an order and 12 guns were removed. The man was then sentenced to one year in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of threats to bomb or injure property.<sup>6</sup>

**2018 • SAN DIEGO, CA**

Employees at a car sales lot became concerned after their coworker allegedly praised the perpetrator of the Route 91 Festival shooting in Las Vegas and said he thought about committing a similar act at a church or synagogue. The man also told his coworkers he would kill them all if he were ever fired. Police requested an order, which was granted, allowing them to remove the man's two handguns, two shotguns, and an AR-15.<sup>7</sup>

**c. 2016-2018 • CALIFORNIA**

A 24-year-old man threatened to shoot or bomb the employees of the family business, his family, and himself the following day. He reportedly made these types of threats previously. The man's uncle reported this incident to the police and his mother petitioned for an order three days later. A temporary ex-parte order was granted and 26 firearms, including two assault-style rifles and 18 semiautomatic pistols were relinquished. A one-year order was subsequently issued after a hearing.<sup>8</sup>

**c. 2016-2018 • CALIFORNIA**

The California Department of Justice was warned about a 21-year-old man who, after he was terminated, threatened to shoot coworkers. It was discovered that he recently purchased a shotgun, but due to California's 10-day waiting period, the sale had not yet been completed. A temporary order was granted which ultimately blocked the sale and police found 400 rounds of shotgun ammunition in his home. The man contested the order, but a judge determined a final one-year order should be issued.<sup>9</sup>

**2019 • EVANSVILLE, IN**

A family member contacted police saying that a man was in possession of multiple firearms and made numerous comments about getting into a confrontation with law enforcement at his home. The next day, the same man called police saying he had tied up his wife and was holding her at gunpoint. He gave the dispatcher specific instructions for law enforcement and if those instructions were not followed, he said "it would result in a bloodbath." Police were able to verify his wife's safety and then safely detain the man. Police later utilized the law, at family members request, to remove 10 firearms, including multiple shotguns and rifles, as well as more than 200 rounds of ammunition.<sup>10</sup>

**DANGER OF GUNFIRE IN SCHOOLS****MAY 2018 • OSCEOLA COUNTY, FL**

A janitor threatened to bring a gun to school, and was reported to police by a teacher at Parkway Middle School. He told the teacher his only regret would be that his targets would "run for their lives before [he] could get to them." After an order was issued, deputies removed a handgun from the man.<sup>11</sup>

**MAY 2018 • ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FL**

A high school student was stalking his ex-girlfriend after she broke up with him. At one point he attempted to punch a boy who was with her. The student also threatened to post private photos of the girl on social media, said he would kill himself if she didn't get back together with him, and posted photos of an AR-15 online. Two resource officers submitted affidavits for a petition against him and all the firearms were removed from his home.<sup>12</sup>

**2018 • MIDDLEBURY, VT**

Two students at Middlebury Union Middle School were planning to shoot another student on campus and "anyone else." Another student overheard this conversation and notified the school principal who then called the police. One of the students was planning to get the guns from a relative. Prosecutors obtained an order and removed 10 weapons, mainly handguns and hunting rifles, from the relative's home.<sup>13</sup>

**2018 • PORTLAND, OR**

A judge granted a petition for a man who posed for photos with a semi-automatic rifle and had spoken openly about planning a school shooting.<sup>14</sup>

**c. 2016-2018 • CALIFORNIA**

A 21-year-old man posted statements online threatening his former high school. Two different acquaintances reported these posts to police, with one person reporting a post that appeared to show the man holding an AR-type rifle. The school was closed the following day. A temporary ex-parte order was obtained and a full order was issued after a hearing.<sup>15</sup>

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE****APRIL 2018 • SUNRISE, FL**

A man admitted his plans to kill his estranged wife, her sister, and their pastor to his church congregation. Police filed a petition and a judge ultimately ordered to have both his handgun and concealed-weapons license removed.<sup>16</sup>

**2018 • MID-CITY, CA**

A man locked his wife in a car with him and began to threaten her with a loaded firearm. Police searched the car and found two loaded firearms that did not belong to him. An order was issued and two handguns were removed.<sup>17</sup>

**2018 • LA JOLLA, CA**

A 40-year-old man told his fiancée in a text message that he wanted to shoot her in the head. He then threatened her ex-boyfriend while holding a knife behind his back. An order was issued, and a handgun and an assault rifle were removed from his possession.<sup>18</sup>

**2018 • BROOKINGS, OR**

After going home with a newly-purchased handgun and consuming alcohol, a man argued with his wife. He then took out his gun as the argument escalated. His wife made a phone call to another man to let him know her husband would not let her leave and her husband began threatening to kill the other man. Police arrived minutes later. A judge issued an order to remove his gun and the man relinquished his handgun.<sup>19</sup>

**2018 • CARLTON, OR**

A man threatened to kill his dog and then himself and texted his girlfriend, "OK, murder suicide it is." After his girlfriend tried to call 911, the man retrieved a loaded pistol and cornered her in the bathroom in order to get her phone. The girlfriend sustained a few bruises while struggling to keep her phone and was able to get away. Later that night, the man shot their TV with a shotgun. Police officers arrived at his home the next day and removed 10 guns for safekeeping. Days later, police filed a petition and a judge ultimately issued an order to prevent the return of the guns to the man.<sup>20</sup>

**DANGER OF SELF-HARM****MAY 2018 • ROSEVILLE, CA**

The Roseville Police Department responded to a relative's call about a man armed with a handgun and threatening suicide inside his home. When the officers could not convince him to come out of the house after several hours, they returned later with a gun violence restraining order and removed his firearms.<sup>21</sup>

**2018 • MISSION VALLEY, CA**

The girlfriend of a 28-year-old man tried to call for help after her boyfriend grabbed a gun case and threatened suicide. The man threw his girlfriend to the ground to prevent her from doing so. An issue was ordered and police removed five firearms.<sup>22</sup>

**OTHER****2018 • ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FL**

A 42-year-old man had been experiencing substance abuse and mental health issues since the death of his son two years prior. He faced manslaughter charges in connection with the unintentional shooting of his son, alleging he had improperly stored firearms in the home. The charges were never prosecuted. Police removed 54 weapons from his home after the temporary ex-parte order was granted.<sup>23</sup>

**2018 • GRIFFITH, IN**

A woman called 911 on her husband after he locked himself in a bathroom. He was on psychiatric medications for mental illness and was having delusions that people were hiding in the attic. Police arrived at the home and calmed the man down. The next morning, police arrived at the home again responding to a similar disturbance and removed the firearms after an order was granted.<sup>24</sup>

**2018 • LAKE COUNTY, IN**

Griffith police removed the weapons from the home of a man who was suffering from dementia-like symptoms and was displaying erratic and dangerous behavior.<sup>25</sup>

**2018 • DEERFIELD BEACH, FL**

A court ordered a man not to have access to guns when he was released on bond after being arrested for shooting at a friend whom he had recently had an argument. Law enforcement requested an order to ensure he could not access firearms. After the man refused to voluntarily surrender his firearms, law enforcement obtained a search warrant and found multiple firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.<sup>26</sup>

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