

PRESS RELEASE

New York State Unified Court System

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www.nycourts.gov/press

Date: June 14, 2023

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Data Now Available on NYS Court System Website

NEW YORK—The New York State Unified Court System has launched an online dashboard, <u>ERPO | NYCOURTS.GOV</u>, that provides information on the number of Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) applications filed—among other relevant data—since the August 2019 implementation of New York's "red flag" law, designed to prevent gun crimes by temporarily restricting persons considered dangerous to themselves or others from access to any firearm.

An ERPO prohibits a person from purchasing or possessing firearms, rifles and/or shotguns. An application may be filed by a police officer, district attorney, school official, healthcare professional or member of the person's family or household. ERPO applications must be filed in the State Supreme Court and only a Supreme Court Justice can issue an ERPO. ERPOs are civil, not criminal, protection orders. The court may issue a temporary ERPO (TERPO) when the applicant shows probable cause that a person is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to self or others. The court must hold a hearing before issuing a final ERPO. At the hearing, the applicant must prove by clear and convincing evidence that a person is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to self or others. An ERPO expires after one year, but applications to renew an ERPO for additional periods of one year may be filed.

In addition to the number of ERPO applications filed, the dashboard provides numbers on how many temporary and final ERPOs have been issued since the law went into effect. While only aggregate counts are provided—with dashboard users unable to see the outcome of a specific application filed—the data can be broken out by county, filing date, issue date and applying agency, as well as by race/ethnicity, age and gender of the respondent. Since more than one ERPO can be issued to an individual, counts are provided on the number of distinct individuals issued a TERPO and/or ERPO.

"I am pleased to announce this latest addition to the court system's online data toolbox. ERPO applications have risen significantly in recent years, along with an increased interest in data relating to these filings. The ERPO dashboard, which will be updated daily, offers researchers, legislators, journalists, health professionals, advocacy groups and members of the public ready access to this critically important information. I am thankful to the court system's Division of Technology and Court Research for the proficient rollout of this dynamic research tool," said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.