## **INSTRUCTIONS**

# Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)

## **Important Notices and Resources**

The Court has forms and instructions, for some types of cases, as a general guide to the court process. These instructions explain the steps in more detail and answer common questions but are not a full guide to the law. Court employees may be able to give general information on court rules and procedures, but they cannot give legal advice.

#### Have questions about court forms or instructions?

- Visit <u>www.MNCourts.gov/SelfHelp</u>
- Call the Statewide Self-Help Center at 651-435-6535

#### Not sure what to do about a legal issue or need advice?

- Talk with a lawyer
- Visit www.MNCourts.gov/Find-a-Lawyer.aspx
- Helpful materials may be found at your public county law library. For a directory, see http://mn.gov/law-library/research-links/county-law-libraries.jsp. For more information, contact court administration or call the Minnesota State Law Library at 651-297-7651.

### Forms You Need to Request an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO):

- Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERP102); AND
- Firearm Information Form (ERP103).

#### Forms You MAY Also Need:

- Attachment to Firearm Information Form (ERP103\_F) if Respondent has more than 8 firearms;
- Petitioner's Request for Confidential Address (ERP104) if asking for your address to be confidential;

www.mncourts.gov/forms

- Affidavit in Support of Request for Alternative Service or Publication (ERP106); and
- Cover Sheet for Non-Public Document (Form 11.2).

The "Extreme Risk Protection Order Packet" of forms are available online at <a href="https://www.mncourts.gov/forms">www.mncourts.gov/forms</a> under the "Firearms" category.

### **General Information about the Extreme Risk Protection Process**

#### What is an ERPO?

An Extreme Risk Protection Order, or "ERPO," is a court order stating that someone cannot have or buy firearms. You can use the *Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order* (ERP102) to ask the court for an ERPO. Courts will only issue an ERPO if someone poses a significant danger of bodily harm to others and/or is at significant risk of suicide if they have a firearm.

An ERPO petition **does not** ask the Court to order someone to stop contacting you. There is a separate court process if you want the court to order someone to stop contacting you. Information is available online at <a href="https://www.mncourts.gov/help-topics.aspx">www.mncourts.gov/help-topics.aspx</a> under "Domestic Abuse & Harassment."

If you feel endangered or want protection against someone you can also call the Domestic Violence Crisis Line at (866) 223-1111 for more information about an Order for Protection or Harassment Restraining Order.

#### Who can apply for an ERPO?

The person applying for an ERPO is the **Petitioner.** The person you are asking the court to order not to have or buy firearms is the **Respondent**. Only certain people are legally allowed to be Petitioners in ERPO cases.

To apply for an ERPO, you must be a:

- Chief Law Enforcement Officer/Agency;
- City or County Attorney;
- Guardian of the Respondent, as defined by Minn. Stat. § 524.1-201; or
- Family/Household member of the Respondent defined as:
  - Spouse
  - Former Spouse
  - Parent/Child
  - Anyone currently living with the Respondent, or
  - A person involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship with the Respondent.

### Where to apply for an ERPO?

Petitions may be filed in the county where Respondent lives. If you don't live or work in the county where Respondent lives, you may ask to appear virtually in the Petition. If the judicial officer denies your request to appear virtually, you may re-file the Petition in the county where you live or work.

## How long does an ERPO last?

An Emergency ERPO lasts for up to 14 days. An Emergency ERPO can be issued "ex parte," which means after hearing from only one side. An Emergency ERPO is granted or denied based on documents submitted by the Petitioner, without a hearing.

A long-term ERPO is in effect for at least 6 months and no longer than one year. A long-term ERPO can only be issued after a hearing.

The Petitioner can ask for an Emergency ERPO, a long-term ERPO, or both in the Petition.

#### What happens after filing for an ERPO?

If an Emergency ERPO was granted or a hearing is set for a long-term ERPO, Respondent will be served by law enforcement. This can happen by personal service (handing the documents to Respondent), first class mail, or by publication. More information on service is below.

If an Emergency ERPO was granted, Respondent has the right to request a hearing challenging the emergency order by filing a Request for Hearing on Emergency ERPO (ERP202).

If a hearing has been scheduled and Respondent receives notice less than 5 days before the hearing, Respondent has the right to request a continuance of up to 14 days by using the Request for Continuance (ERP203).

## Step 1

## Fill out the Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERP102)

#### The Caption

State of Minnesota	District Court
County of:	Court File Number:
Judicial District:	Case Type: Extreme Risk Protection Order
Petitioner	
VS	
Respondent	

- At the very top of the page, you will fill in 2 lines:
  - The **county** where the case is located. This is where the Respondent lives; and
  - o The judicial district number. Each county belongs in one of 10 judicial districts. If you need help, see http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts.aspx.
  - Leave the court file number blank. The court will assign a number after you file the paperwork.

- Fill in the name of each party.
  - The Petitioner is the person making the request for an ERPO. (You are the Petitioner.)
    - o If you are filing as a chief law enforcement officer/designee or city/county attorney, list only your agency name on the Petitioner line.
    - o If you are filing as a family/household member or guardian, list your first and last name on the Petitioner line.
  - The Respondent is the person you believe should not buy or possess firearms. List their first and last name on the Respondent line.

Next, you will fill out the rest of the form.

#### Petitioner Information – Law Enforcement Agency or City/County Attorney

-	1. F	Petitioner Information – Law Enforcement Agency or Prosecutor:
		Petitioner is:
		☐ Chief Law Enforcement Officer (or designee)
		☐ City or County Attorney
		Petitioning Agency Name:
		Agency Street Address:
		City, State, Zip Code:
		Affiant/Signer Name (first last):
		(If petitioning as a law enforcement agency or city/county attorney skip to question #5.)

Question #1 is only filled out if the Petitioner is a Law Enforcement Agency or City/County
Attorney. If you are filing as a Family/Household Member, or Guardian, skip question #1 and
go to #2. If filing as Law Enforcement Agency or City/County Attorney, fill in all the
information requested in question #1 then skip to question #5 to continue with the rest of
the petition.

#### Petitioner Information – Family/Household Member or Guardian

	Petitioner Information – Family/Household Member or Guardian:
	First Name:
	Middle Name:
	Last Name:
	Date of Birth:
3.	Petitioner Address - Family/Household Member or Guardian:
3.	Petitioner Address - Family/Household Member or Guardian:  \[ I am requesting that my address be kept confidential by submitting the completed \[ Confidential Address Request form (ERP104) to the court. \]
3.	☐ I am requesting that my address be kept confidential by submitting the completed
3.	☐ I am requesting that my address be kept confidential by submitting the completed Confidential Address Request form (ERP104) to the court.
3.	☐ I am requesting that my address be kept confidential by submitting the completed  Confidential Address Request form (ERP104) to the court.  OR

Questions 2-4 are only answered if the Petitioner is filing as a family/household member or Guardian.

- 2. Fill in your complete name and date of birth. The date of birth is used for party matching case records.
- 3. Fill in your address. If you want your to be kept confidential in this court file, you can use the Confidential Address Request form (ERP104) instead to give the court your address.
  - Please note There may be other documents already filed in this case, or in other court cases, where your address is public and will remain public.
- 4. Fill in information about your relationship to Respondent. Check all boxes that apply.

**Important:** At the bottom of question 4 there is a place for you to list the primary (main) law enforcement agency serving the jurisdiction (place) where Respondent lives, if you know. The primary law enforcement agency for the place where Respondent lives must accept certain responsibilities according to the ERPO laws. It is important to list the primary law enforcement agency for the place where Respondent lives, if you know.

#### **Respondent Information**

5.	Respondent Information:
	First Name:
	Middle Name:
	Last Name:
	Street Address:
	City, State, Zip Code
	Telephone:
	Race: Gender 🗆 Male 🗀 Female
	Date of birth: If unknown, age or approximate age
	(Respondent's race, gender, and date of birth or approximate age are required for reporting requirements.)

- 5. Fill in information about Respondent being as specific and detailed as possible. This is information that will be shared with Law Enforcement Agencies and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA).
  - A note about gender: The court recognizes that binary gender options of male and female do not fully represent the gender identities of all individuals.

The court has to pass information electronically to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) in order for law enforcement to be able to see the ERPO in a statewide system. The court is limited to two gender options for that process - male and female.

If you do not choose male or female, ERPO data cannot be passed to the BCA. That means law enforcement will not have access to the electronic version of any ERPO and the Respondent's name will not appear in any firearms background check.

- If Respondent is a minor (younger than 18) then you should also list:
  - o The name of Respondent's parent or guardian; and
  - The parent or guardian's address.

This information is required because when a respondent is a minor, the Respondent and the respondent's parent or guardian must be served.

#### **Request for Order and Hearing**

6.	<b>Request for Order:</b> Respondent poses a significant danger of bodily harm to others and/or is at significant risk of suicide. (Check all that apply)
	☐ I request a temporary emergency order. Respondent presents an <b>immediate and present</b> danger of bodily harm to others or taking their own life. I understand that this order will generally last for no more than 14 days and does not require a hearing. (Minn. Stat. § 624.7174) I understand I can request a hearing in question #7 below.
	AND/OR
	$\square$ I request a long-term order that will last between six months and one year. I understand that a hearing must be held before this order can be issued and that a hearing will generally be held within 14 days. (Minn. Stat. § 624.7172)
7.	<b>Request for Hearing:</b> If requesting a temporary emergency order <b>only</b> and the request is denied, do you want a hearing? $\square$ Yes $\square$ No

- 6. Check the box for what type of order you want. You can choose to ask for a temporary emergency order which lasts up to 14 days, or a long-term order which can last 6 months 1 year. You can request both types of orders by checking both boxes. If a long-term order is requested, a hearing will be scheduled.
- 7. A temporary emergency order can be granted without a hearing, but if the judicial officer does not have enough information to make a decision or doesn't believe an emergency exists, the request for an emergency order may be denied. If you want a hearing if that happens, be sure to check the box requesting a hearing.

#### **Reasons for Petition**

8.	Reasons for Petition:
	Describe the reasons the Respondent poses a significant danger of bodily harm to others or is at significant risk of suicide if they possess or purchase a firearm. Things to consider while filling in the details:
	Check all boxes that apply and explain with as much detail as possible. If the exact date is unknown, give a date range.
	→ If you need more space for your explanation, add another piece of paper labeled with the paragraph number/heading included. For example, "Attachment for Reasons for Petition 8 a." Do not write on the back of the page or in the margins.
	You may have supporting documents, like medical records or police reports, that will be helpful in explaining your concern and answering the questions below.  Please read the <i>Instructions</i> (ERP101) for more information on how to file these supporting documents. Even with the supporting documents, you must still explain the reasons for your petition below.
	$\hfill \Box$ a. Respondent has a history of threats or acts of violence directed toward another person.
	Date (date range):

- 8. The information included in this section is what a judicial officer will use to decide whether an ERPO is needed. Include as much detail and information as possible.
  - Check the box next to the reasons (a-j) you believe an ERPO is needed. Include a specific date or date range (if possible) along with details of what happened.
  - If you have supporting documents like medical records or police reports, you can include information from those documents within the *Petition* itself but if you want to have the judicial officer review the documents, they will need to be filed as separate documents along with the Petition. Any information you include in the Petition will be public in the court file. Supporting documents will be public or confidential depending on the content and the court's rules on access to records.
    - i. Police reports Police reports are considered public documents. If there is information that you do not want available to the public, you should redact (cross out) the information before filing.
    - ii. Medical Records Medical records must be from: medical, health care, or scientific professionals AND related to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of Respondent. For these records to be kept confidential in the court file they must be filed correctly. See Steps 4 and 5 for more information about filing.
    - iii. If you are unsure of what supporting documents should be filed, if any, or how to file them, talk with an attorney for legal advice.
  - If you have more information that is not covered in a-i, you can include other information in box j.

#### **Emergency Requests**

9.	Emergency Request
	If requesting an emergency order in question 6 explain in detail why you think Respondent presents an <b>immediate and present</b> danger of bodily harm to others or taking their own life.

9. If you asked for a temporary emergency request you **must** answer question #9 and explain why you think there is an immediate and present danger of bodily harm to others or Respondent taking their own life. If you do not answer this question or give enough information for a judicial officer to decide if an emergency exists, your request for an emergency ERPO may be denied and a hearing may be set.

#### **Court Appearance**

10. Court Appearance: If a hearing is scheduled, you must appear at the hearing. You may state your preference, but you must appear in the manner ordered by the court.

☐ I request to appear virtually (remotely).

☐ I don't have a preference between virtual (remote) or in-person appearance.

→ Please note: If the court denies your request to appear virtually, you may refile the petition in the county where you live or work to appear in person. Minn. Stat. § 624.7171, subd. 2 (b).

10. You can ask to appear virtually or in person. If the judicial officer denies your request to appear virtually and you do not live or work in the county where you filed, you may re-file the Petition in the county where you live or work.

#### **Firearms Information**

11. Firearms Information: To the best of my knowledge, the Respondent possesses \_\_\_\_\_\_ (number) firearms. The description and location of any firearms is listed on the Firearm Information Form (ERP103) submitted with this Petition.

11. Fill in the number of firearms you believe Respondent possesses. Important: The law requires petitioners to share information about the type and location of firearms the Respondent possesses. There is a separate *Firearm Information Form* (ERP103) to write all the details about any firearms the Respondent has. It is very important to fill out and include the *Firearm Information Form* (ERP103) with your petition. See Step #2 on how to fill out the form.

#### Signature Block

Dated:	
	Signature
	Name
County and state where signed	(If you have asked to keep your address confidential, do
	not include it here.)
	Address:
	City/State/Zip:
	Phone:
	Email:
	anges, you must give Court Administration your new information
	Attorney Representing Petitioner (if any)
	anges, you must give Court Administration your new information
	Attorney Representing Petitioner (if any)  Signature
	Attorney Representing Petitioner (if any)  Signature Name:
	Attorney Representing Petitioner (if any)  Signature Name: Attorney/Bar Number:
	Attorney Representing Petitioner (if any)  Signature Name: Attorney/Bar Number: Address:
<b>Notice:</b> If your address or telephone charight away, in writing.	Attorney Representing Petitioner (if any)  Signature Name: Attorney/Bar Number:

Sign and date the *Petition*, and include the county and state where you are when you signed the Petition. Fill in the rest of the information. If you asked for your address to be kept confidential do not include it in the signature block. Phone number and email address is used to make sure the court has up-to-date contact information.

When you sign the *Petition*, you are signing under penalty of perjury. This means you are saying that everything in the Petition is true and correct. If you know something in the form is not true when you sign it, you could be found guilty of the crime of perjury (see Minn. Stat. § 609.48, https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=609.48).

Attorney Signature Block – If you are not represented by an attorney then there is nothing left to fill out in the Petition. If you have an attorney representing you, but you are filing your Petition yourself, you can list your attorney's name and contact information here, but that is optional. Don't add a signature on behalf of your attorney. If an attorney is filing a Petition on behalf of their client, the attorney should complete the signature block, including signature.

## Step 2 Fill Out Firearm Information Form (ERP103)

The Firearm Information Form is shared with Law Enforcement Agencies and is used to collect firearms from Respondent. Even if you do not have specific information about Respondent's firearms, this form must still be completed with as much information as possible and filed with the *Petition*. The form is available with the Extreme Risk Protection Order Packet along with the *Petition* online at <a href="www.mncourts.gov/forms">www.mncourts.gov/forms</a> under the "Firearms" Category.

#### The Caption

State of Minnesota	District Court
County of:	Court File Number:
Judicial District:	Case Type: Extreme Risk Protection Order
	_
Petitioner	
VS	
Respondent	
Firearm Inform	nation Form (ERP103)
This form includes the description and locati Respondent. Respondent's current address,	•
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip:	

- Fill in the county, judicial district, and party names exactly as you completed the caption in Step 1.
- Fill in the Respondent's complete address. This should be the same as the address you included in the *Petition* in Step 1.

#### **Firearm Information**

specific as possible about where it is	of each firearm that Respondent possesses and be as s located. Include as much information as possible. Types of l to: pistol/handgun, rifle/shotgun, semi-automatic, fully f unknown, state "unknown."
Firearm #1	
Type of Firearm and description:	
Location of firearm #1:	
☐ Respondent's address lister	d above.
☐ Another Address:	
Homeowner's Name/Na	me of Business:
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
$\square$ Unknown. To the best of m	y knowledge, it is located inCounty.

• You will need to fill in as much detailed information as possible about each and every firearm that Respondent possess. List each firearm separately. This includes antique firearms as well. If the firearm is not located in Respondent's home or another address that is known, include where you believe the firearm may be located.

• If Respondent has more than 8 firearms, use Attachment—- Firearm Information Form (ERP103 F) to continue including information about each individual firearm.

## Step 3

## Fill out the *Petitioner's Request for Confidential Address* (ERP104), if needed

Only fill out this form if you are asking that your address be kept confidential. The form is available with the Extreme Risk Protection Order Packet along with the *Petition* online at <a href="https://www.mncourts.gov/forms">www.mncourts.gov/forms</a> under the "Firearms" Category.

## Step 4

## Fill out Cover Sheet for Non-Public Document (Form 11.2) (CON112), if needed

Use this form if you are filing any supporting documents with the *Petition* that the law allows to be non-public. Specifically, Form 11.2 is required for: (1) medical records filed by paper, and (2) any other documents that the law allows to be non-public, regardless of whether those other documents are filed electronically or by paper. **Note:** if you are filing medical records electronically, you do not need this form as long as you use the correct filing code. See Step 5 for details.

- Fill out the caption the same as the *Petition* in Step 1.
- Check the box for the type of supporting document that is being submitted. For purposes of this case type if you are not submitting "medical records" you will need to explain, in detail, why you believe the document should be kept confidential and not available to the public.
  Note: Medical records will be confidential in the court file as long as they are submitted with Form 11.2 when filed by paper. The definition of medical records are documents from: medical, health care, or scientific professionals AND related to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of Respondent.
- Police reports are considered public. If there is information that you do not want available to the public, you should redact (cross out) the information before filing. Even if you submit Form 11.2 with a request to keep this confidential, the court may deny your request and keep the document public.
- If you are not sure if a document should be submitted or can be kept confidential, talk with an attorney for legal advice.

## Step 5

### **File with Court Administration**

File the following documents with court administration:

- Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERP102);
- Firearm Information Form (ERP103);
- Attachment to Firearm Information Form (ERP103 F) if needed;
- Petitioner's Request for Confidential Address (ERP104), if using;
- Supporting documents, if using; and
- Cover Sheet for Non-Public Document (Form 11.2) with supporting documents, if needed (see Step 4, above).

#### **How to File**

#### At the Courthouse – for Self-Represented Litigants (SRLs)

- This can be done either in person at the courthouse or by mail. Addresses for courthouses are online at <a href="https://mncourts.gov/Find-Courts.aspx">https://mncourts.gov/Find-Courts.aspx</a>. Use the drop-down menu or map to find your county.
- It is a good idea to make a copy of each of the forms you are filing with the court for your own records.
- There is no fee to file a request for an Extreme Risk Protection Order.
- **Note** If filing "Medical Records" or any other supporting documents to support the *Petition* that qualify under court rule to be kept confidential, they will only be confidential **if** they are attached to a *Cover Sheet for Non-Public Document* (Form 11.2) explained in Step 4.

#### **Electronic Filing through eFS System**

- The eFS System allows you to electronically file (eFile) your forms. Information on eFiling is on the MN Judicial Branch website at <a href="https://www.mncourts.gov/eFile">https://www.mncourts.gov/eFile</a> under the "eFile and eServe Training" tab.
- There is no fee to file an Extreme Risk Protection Order.
- Once you choose to eFile, you must eFile for the rest of the case. See Minn. Gen. R. Prac.
   14.01(b)(5)(i)
   (revisor.mn.gov/court\_rules/gp/id/14/). Government agencies and attorneys are always required to eFile.
- Note If filing medical records to support the Petition they will only be confidential if they
  are submitted with the filing code of "Medical Report" or "Medical Record."

## Step 6 After you File.....

What happens next will depend on whether or not you asked for a temporary emergency order in your *Petition*. A judicial officer will make a decision about your request and issue an order. When the order is ready, you will get a copy of the order.

Order on your Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) (emergency, long-term, or both)

Read your order carefully. Did the judicial officer:

- Grant your request for an emergency ERPO?
- Deny your request for an emergency ERPO?
- Order a hearing?
- Dismiss the case without granting, denying, or setting a hearing?

If the judicial officer **GRANTS** an Emergency ERPO it will be effective immediately for 14 days. If you also requested a long-term ERPO, a hearing will be scheduled within 14 days to determine if a long-term ERPO should be granted. If you did not request a long-term order, the Respondent has the right to request a hearing to challenge the Emergency ERPO. If the Respondent requests a hearing, you will get notice of the hearing date and time. You must attend the hearing. If you do not, the ERPO case may be dismissed.

If the judicial officer **DENIES** your request for an Emergency ERPO **and** you have asked for either a long-term ERPO or a hearing on the Emergency ERPO, then the court will schedule a hearing to be held within 14 days and the court will send a notice with the date and time of the hearing to you and the Respondent. There will be no ERPO in effect before the hearing. You **must** attend the hearing. If you do not attend the hearing, the ERPO case may be dismissed. If you *only* requested an Emergency ERPO and **did not** request a hearing, then the case will be closed and dismissed if the judicial officer denies your request for Emergency ERPO.

If you **requested a long-term ERPO only**, without requesting an Emergency ERPO, then the judicial officer may order a hearing only. The court will send a notice of the date and time of the hearing to you and the Respondent. There will be no ERPO in effect before the hearing. You **must** attend the hearing. If you do not attend the hearing, the ERPO case may be dismissed. The hearing will be scheduled to be held within 14 days. If the Respondent does not get enough notice of the hearing date, they may request a continuance.

If the judicial officer **DISMISSES** the case without granting or denying an ERPO or setting a hearing, it may mean that you do not have legal authority to request an ERPO under Minn. Stat. § 624.7171, subd. 4 (b). You can talk to an attorney for legal advice to see what your options might be.

Instructions – Petition for Extreme Risk Protection Order ERP101 State ENG Rev. 3/24

#### If a Hearing is Ordered

If the judicial officer orders a hearing, check to see whether the hearing will be virtual (remote) or in-person. If the petition was filed in a different county from where you live or work, you may re-file the petition in a county where you do live or work, if the judicial officer denied your request to appear virtually. Whether a hearing is virtual or in-person, you must appear at the hearing. If you do not attend the hearing, the ERPO case may be dismissed and the court might cancel any Emergency ERPO in effect. See the "What to Expect Next..." section below for more details.

## Step 7 **Service on Respondent**

If a judicial officer issues an emergency ERPO or orders a hearing, a copy of the petition, any supplemental documents, and the order must be served on the Respondent. Service means someone gets legally valid notice of a legal proceeding. Service is handled differently depending on who petitioned to request the ERPO.

#### If Petitioner is a Chief Law Enforcement Officer or City/County Attorney:

• The agency that filed the *Petition* is responsible for serving the Respondent.

#### If Petitioner is a Family/Household Member or Guardian:

- Court administration will send the ERPO documents to law enforcement who will try to personally serve the Respondent. There is no fee for this service.
- Service is complete when law enforcement personally delivers a copy of the papers to Respondent. It may take them several tries to serve the Respondent, which could take a week or more.
- If law enforcement is not able to serve the Respondent, you may file the Affidavit in Support of Request for Alternative Service or Publication (ERP106) to ask permission to have them served by first class mail or publication. This form is available on the Minnesota Judicial Branch website with the Petition packet at www.mncourts.gov/forms under the "Firearms" category.

## What to Expect Next...

If a hearing is scheduled, you must attend the hearing. If you do not attend the hearing, the ERPO case may be dismissed and the court might cancel any Emergency ERPO in effect.

For a hearing on a long-term ERPO, the Petitioner (you) must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the Respondent poses a significant danger to other persons or is at significant risk of suicide by possessing a firearm. You may provide documents (exhibits) or testimony. The Court can also consider testimony from officers, or others, who have interacted with the Respondent.

There are Rules of Evidence that say what kind of evidence courts can consider. The Court will not consider evidence that does not meet the requirements in the rules.

You must provide any evidence or information you want the Court to have when deciding whether or not to grant an ERPO. if you think there is someone who has relevant information, you'll need to have them appear as a witness. Judicial officers are not allowed to independently investigate cases, including looking at outside court records.

#### **Rights of Respondent:**

- Respondent can waive (give up) the right to contest the ERPO and agree to have the ERPO in place.
- If Respondent has not received the *Notice of Hearing* at least 5 days before the hearing, they can file a Request for Continuance to allow time to prepare, talk with an attorney, etc. If an Emergency ERPO is currently in place, an Order for Continuance might continue the Emergency ERPO until the new hearing date.

If you are not sure what to say in court, it is a good idea to talk to an attorney before the hearing. For more information about going to court, visit the "Going to Court" Help Topic at https://mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Going-to-Court.aspx.