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# Fact Sheet: Red Flag Laws

## RED FLAG LAW DEFINED

A law which enables the forcible removal of a citizen's firearms based on the testimony of someone who claims the citizen is a threat to himself or others. Also called Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Law.

Before red flag laws, guns could already be confiscated in any state with the testimony of a mental health professional under oath.

ERPOs are often issued by judges **BEFORE THE ACCUSED HAS THE CHANCE TO SPEAK ON HIS OWN BEHALF.**

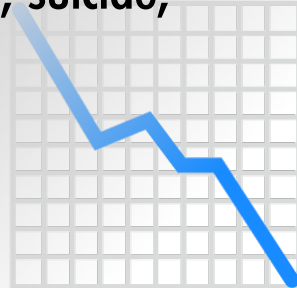
*This is called an "ex parte judgment." The judge issues the order solely on the testimony of one person who may be acting in bad faith.*

Those accused under red flag laws face great financial burdens. They often are not provided legal counsel like those accused of an actual crime.

**MANY HAVE TO PAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING THEIR CONFISCATED GUNS STORED.** This could cost thousands of dollars.



A study by the Crime Prevention Research Center found that **"RED FLAG LAWS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT** on murder, suicide, the number of people killed in mass public shootings, robbery, aggravated assault, or burglary."



*Proponents like to tout statistics about how red flag laws supposedly prevent suicides, but those numbers only show the gun-related suicides prevented.*

**THEY DON'T ACCOUNT WHEN SOMEONE USES ANOTHER METHOD INSTEAD OF THEIR GUN.**

**Red flag laws don't solve the problem. Those with criminal intent can still get guns from illegal street dealers or use other weapons.**