In 2018, The Florida Legislature passed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act in response to a tragic school shooting. The law is designed to enhance public safety by restricting firearm and ammunition possession by a person who poses a danger to himself or herself or others.

What can you do if you believe someone poses a danger to himself or herself or others if he or she has access to firearms or ammunition?

Contact your local law enforcement office. Only law enforcement may ask a court to enter a Risk Protection Order against someone who may be a danger to himself or herself or others.

Contact your local police department or sheriff’s office and provide them with the information you have. They may seek a risk protection order from a court under section 790.401, Florida Statutes.

Risk Protection Orders

If a protection order is granted, the person subject to the order (the respondent) must immediately surrender all of his or her firearms, ammunition, and any license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm to the law enforcement officer who serves the order on the respondent. The order will remain in place until the date written on the order unless it is extended or vacated by the court after a hearing.

Once a protection order has been entered, the respondent may make one written request for a hearing to vacate the order. At the hearing, the respondent has the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the order should be vacated based on the reasons set out in section 790.401, Florida Statutes.

Within 30 days prior to the expiration of the order, the petitioner (law enforcement) may file a motion to extend the order and the court will hold a hearing to determine if the order should be extended.

Other information law enforcement should consider:

If you have information for law enforcement, please provide your:

Name: _________________________________

Contact Information: ____________________

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Risk protection forms are available online at www.flcourts.org

If you have information for law enforcement, please provide your:

Name: _________________________________

Contact Information: ____________________

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Contact Information: ____________________

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What can you do to help the process?

You can provide law enforcement with information that you know about the person, his or her mental health condition, any threats or acts of violence that were made, any other facts that raise a concern for safety, and any firearms and ammunition in the person’s possession.

Name: ___________________________________

Address: ___________________________________

Mental health concerns: ___________________________________

Threats or acts of violence: ___________________________________

Other safety concerns: ___________________________________

Law enforcement will need a description of the type of firearm(s) in the possession of the person you are concerned about and the number of each type. Examples: 2 handguns, 1 pistol, 3 rifles, and 2 shotguns. The pictures below are just examples and may not look exactly like the firearm(s) in your case. Please pick the one(s) that most closely resemble the firearms you are describing.

Number: ____

Number: ____

Number: ____

Number: ____

Law enforcement will need a description of the type of ammunition in the possession of the person you are concerned about and the number of each type. Examples: about 200 bullets, 4 boxes of bullets, 20 shotgun shells, and 3 clips/magazines. The pictures below are just examples and may not look exactly like the ammunition in your case. Please pick the one(s) that most closely resemble those you are describing.

Number: ____

Number: ____

Number: ____

Number: ____