

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 202  
2 INTRODUCED BY E. STAFMAN

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING PROTECTION ORDER LAWS;  
5 PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING AN EXTREME RISK ORDER OF PROTECTION AND EX  
6 PARTE EXTREME RISK ORDER OF PROTECTION; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING THAT  
7 FIREARMS IN THE POSSESSION OF A PERSON AGAINST WHOM AN EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE  
8 ORDER IS ISSUED MUST BE SURRENDERED AND A PERMIT FOR CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON  
9 MUST BE TERMINATED; PROVIDING PENALTIES; PROVIDING CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH FIREARMS  
10 ARE RETURNED; PROVIDING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS; AND PROVIDING  
11 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS."

12  
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

14  
15 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Definitions.** In [sections 1 through 12], unless the context requires  
16 otherwise, the following definitions apply:

17 (1) "Crime of domestic violence" means any felony offense involving the use or attempted use of  
18 physical force or the use or threatened use of a weapon as defined in 45-2-101 and committed against a  
19 partner or family member or any misdemeanor offense that has as an element the use or attempted use of  
20 physical force or the threatened use of a deadly weapon and is committed against a partner or family member.

21 (2) "Extreme risk order of protection" means an ex parte temporary order or a final order granted  
22 under [sections 1 through 12].

23 (3) "Family member" has the definition found in 45-5-206.

24 (4) "Partner" has the definition found in 45-5-206.

25 (5) "Petitioner" means the person who petitions for an order under [sections 1 through 12].

26 (6) "Respondent" means the person who is identified as the respondent in a petition filed under  
27 [sections 1 through 12].

28



1            **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Extreme risk order of protection established -- petition for extreme**

2            **risk order of protection.** (1) An extreme risk order of protection is established for the purpose of providing a  
3            court procedure by which law enforcement officers and partners or family members may obtain a court order  
4            that prohibits a person from purchasing or possessing firearms because the person poses a risk of causing  
5            personal injury to self or others.

6            (2)        A petitioner may seek an extreme risk order of protection from a district court.

7            (3)        A petition for an extreme risk order of protection may be filed by:

8            (a)        a partner or family member of the respondent; or

9            (b)        a law enforcement officer or agency.

10          (4)        An action under [sections 1 through 12] must be filed in the county where the petitioner resides  
11          or the county where the respondent resides.

12          (5)        A petition must:

13          (a)        allege that the respondent poses a significant risk of causing personal injury to the  
14          respondent's self or others by having custody or control of, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm, and  
15          must be accompanied by an affidavit made under oath stating the specific statements or actions by the  
16          respondent, or facts that give rise to a reasonable fear of future acts of violence by the respondent;

17          (b)        identify the number, types, and location of any firearms the petitioner believes to be in the  
18          respondent's current ownership, possession, custody, or control;

19          (c)        identify whether there is a known existing order of protection governing the respondent, under  
20          Title 40, chapter 15, part 2; and

21          (d)        identify whether there is a pending lawsuit, complaint, petition, or other action between the  
22          parties to the petition under the laws of Montana.

23          (6)        The clerk of district court of the judicial district in which the petition is filed or the office of court  
24          administrator shall verify the terms of any existing order governing the parties. The court in which the petition is  
25          filed may not delay granting relief because of the existence of a pending action between the parties or the  
26          necessity of verifying the terms of an existing order. A petition for an extreme risk protection order may be  
27          granted whether or not there is a pending action between the parties.

28          (7)        If the petitioner is a law enforcement officer or agency, the petitioner shall make a good faith

1 effort to provide notice to a family member or partner of the respondent and to any known third party who may  
 2 be at risk of violence. The notice must state that the petitioner intends to petition the court for an extreme risk  
 3 order of protection or has already done so, and include referrals to appropriate resources, including mental  
 4 health, domestic violence, and counseling resources. The petitioner shall attest in the petition to having  
 5 provided such notice or attest to the steps that will be taken to provide such notice.

6 (8) If the petition states that disclosure of the petitioner's address would risk harm to the petitioner  
 7 or any member of the petitioner's family or household, the petitioner's address may be omitted from all  
 8 documents filed with the court. If the petitioner has not disclosed an address under this subsection, the  
 9 petitioner shall designate an alternative address at which the respondent may serve notice of any motions. If  
 10 the petitioner is a law enforcement officer or agency, the address of record must be that of the law enforcement  
 11 agency.

12 (9) Within 90 days of [the effective date of this act] the clerk of court in each county of the  
 13 respective judicial districts of the state shall make available the standardized forms, instructions, and  
 14 informational brochures required by [section 11]. Any assistance or information provided by clerks under this  
 15 section does not constitute the practice of law and clerks are not responsible for incorrect information contained  
 16 in a petition.

17 (10) A fee for filing or service of process may not be charged by a court or any public agency or law  
 18 enforcement agency to petitioners seeking relief under [sections 1 through 12]. Petitioners must be provided the  
 19 necessary number of certified copies, forms, and instructional brochures free of charge.

20 (11) The district courts of the state of Montana have jurisdiction over proceedings under [sections 1  
 21 through 12]. If the notice and order are not served on the respondent in time for the hearing pursuant to [section  
 22 3], the issuing court may extend the ex parte extreme risk order of protection.

23

24 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Hearings -- issuance of extreme risk protection order.** (1) (a) Upon  
 25 receipt of the petition, the court shall order a hearing to be held no later than 14 days from the date of the order  
 26 and issue a notice of hearing to the parties.

27 (b) The court may schedule a telephonic hearing to reasonably accommodate a disability, or in  
 28 exceptional circumstances to protect a petitioner from potential harm. The court shall require assurances of the

1 petitioner's identity before conducting a telephonic hearing.

2 (c) The clerk of court shall provide a copy of the notice of hearing and petition within 48 hours to  
3 the appropriate law enforcement agency for service upon the respondent under [section 5].

4 (d) (i) The court may, as provided in [section 4], issue an ex parte extreme risk order of protection  
5 before the hearing ordered under this section.

6 (ii) An ex parte order must be served concurrently with the notice of hearing and petition.

7 (iii) Upon hearing the matter, if the court finds good cause to believe that the respondent is a  
8 significant risk of causing personal injury to the respondent's self or others by having custody or control of,  
9 purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm, the court shall issue an extreme risk order of protection for a  
10 period of 1 year.

11 (2) In determining whether grounds for an extreme risk order of protection exist, the court may  
12 consider any relevant evidence, including but not limited to any of the following:

13 (a) a recent act or threat of violence by the respondent against the respondent's self or others,  
14 whether or not the violence or threat of violence involved a firearm;

15 (b) a pattern of acts or threats of violence by the respondent within the past 12 months, including  
16 but not limited to acts or threats of violence by the respondent against the respondent's self or others;

17 (c) any serious mental health issues of the respondent;

18 (d) a violation by the respondent of an order of protection issued under 40-15-202;

19 (e) a previous or existing extreme risk order of protection issued against the respondent;

20 (f) a violation of a previous or existing extreme risk order of protection issued against the  
21 respondent;

22 (g) a conviction of the respondent for a crime that constitutes a crime of domestic violence as  
23 defined in [section 1];

24 (h) the respondent's ownership of, access to, or intent to possess firearms;

25 (i) the unlawful or reckless use, display, or brandishing of a firearm by the respondent;

26 (j) the history of use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force by the respondent  
27 against another person, or the respondent's history of stalking another person;

28 (k) any prior arrest of the respondent for a felony offense or violent crime;

- 1 (l) corroborated evidence of the abuse of controlled substances or alcohol by the respondent; and
- 2 (m) evidence of recent acquisition of firearms by the respondent.

3 (3) The court may:

4 (a) examine under oath the petitioner, the respondent, and any witnesses they may produce, or, in  
 5 lieu of examination, consider sworn affidavits of the petitioner, the respondent, and any witnesses they may  
 6 produce; and

7 (b) ensure that a reasonable search has been conducted for criminal history records related to the  
 8 respondent.

9 (4) During the hearing, the court shall consider whether a mental health evaluation or chemical  
 10 dependency evaluation is appropriate and may order an evaluation if appropriate.

11 (5) An extreme risk order of protection must include:

12 (a) a statement of the grounds supporting the issuance of the order;

13 (b) the date and time the order was issued;

14 (c) the date and time the order expires;

15 (d) whether a mental health evaluation or chemical dependency evaluation of the respondent is  
 16 required;

17 (e) the address of the court in which any responsive pleading should be filed;

18 (f) a description of the requirements for relinquishment of firearms under [section 7]; and

19 (g) the following statement:

20 "To the subject of this extreme risk order of protection: This order will last until the date and time noted  
 21 above. If you have not done so already, you must surrender to the (insert name of local law enforcement  
 22 agency) all firearms in your custody, control, or possession and any concealed weapons permit issued to you  
 23 under 45-8-321 immediately. You may not have in your custody or control, or purchase, possess, receive, or  
 24 attempt to purchase or receive, a firearm while this order is in effect. You have the right to request one hearing  
 25 to terminate this order during every 12-month period that this order is in effect, starting from the date of this  
 26 order and continuing through any renewals. You may seek the advice of an attorney as to any matter  
 27 connected with this order."

28 (6) When the court issues an extreme risk order of protection, the court shall inform the respondent

1 that the respondent is entitled to request termination of the order in the manner prescribed by [section 6]. The  
2 court shall provide the respondent with a form to request a termination hearing.

3 (7) If the court declines to issue an extreme risk order of protection, the court shall state the  
4 particular reasons for the court's denial.

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6 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Ex parte extreme risk order of protection.** (1) A petitioner may request  
7 that an ex parte extreme risk order of protection be issued before a hearing for an extreme risk order of  
8 protection, without notice to the respondent, by including in the petition detailed allegations based on personal  
9 knowledge that the respondent poses a significant risk of causing personal injury to the respondent's self or  
10 others in the near future by having custody or control of, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm.

11 (2) In considering whether to issue an ex parte extreme risk order of protection under this section,  
12 the court shall consider all relevant evidence, including the evidence described in [section 3].

13 (3) If a court finds there is good cause to believe that the respondent poses a significant risk of  
14 causing personal injury to the respondent's self or others by having custody or control of, purchasing,  
15 possessing, or receiving a firearm if the court does not act immediately, the court shall issue an ex parte  
16 extreme risk order of protection.

17 (4) The court shall hold an ex parte extreme risk order of protection hearing in person or by  
18 telephone on the day the petition is filed or within 48 hours of the filing of the petition.

19 (5) In accordance with [section 3], the court shall schedule a hearing within 14 days of the  
20 issuance of an ex parte extreme risk order of protection to determine if a 1-year extreme risk order of protection  
21 should be issued under [sections 1 through 12].

22 (6) An ex parte extreme risk order of protection must include:

- 23 (a) a statement of the grounds asserted for the order;
- 24 (b) the date and time the order was issued;
- 25 (c) the date and time the order expires;
- 26 (d) the address of the court in which any responsive pleading should be filed;
- 27 (e) the date and time of the scheduled hearing;
- 28 (f) a description of the requirements for surrender of firearms under [section 7]; and

1 (g) the following statement:

2 "To the subject of this extreme risk order of protection: This order is valid until the date and time noted  
3 above. You are required to surrender all firearms in your custody, control, or possession. You may not have in  
4 your custody or control, purchase, possess, receive, or attempt to purchase or receive, a firearm while this  
5 order is in effect. You must surrender to (insert name of local law enforcement agency) or a federally licensed  
6 firearms dealer all firearms in your custody, control, or possession and any concealed weapons permit issued  
7 to you under 45-8-321 immediately. A hearing will be held on the date and at the time noted above to determine  
8 if an extreme risk order of protection should be issued. Failure to appear at that hearing may result in a court  
9 issuing an extreme risk order of protection that is valid for 1 year. You may seek the advice of an attorney as to  
10 any matter connected with this petition, hearing, or order."

11 (7) Any ex parte extreme risk order of protection issued expires upon the hearing on the extreme  
12 risk order of protection.

13 (8) An ex parte extreme risk order of protection must be served by a law enforcement officer in the  
14 same manner as provided for in [section 3] for service of the notice of hearing and petition and shall be served  
15 concurrently with the notice of hearing and petition.

16 (9) If the court declines to issue an ex parte extreme risk order of protection, the court shall state  
17 the particular reasons for the court's denial.

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19 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Service of extreme risk order of protection.** (1) An extreme risk order  
20 of protection issued under [section 3] must be served on the respondent as provided in [sections 1 through 12]  
21 and the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

22 (2) A law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area in which the respondent resides shall  
23 attempt to serve the respondent personally.

24 (3) To assist in service by a law enforcement agency, the court shall forward a copy of the order to  
25 the local law enforcement agency specified in the order for service upon the respondent within 48 hours.

26 (4) (a) If a law enforcement agency cannot complete service upon the respondent within 48 hours  
27 and after attempting service for 10 days, the law enforcement agency shall notify the petitioner and the court.  
28 The petitioner shall attempt to provide additional information sufficient to assist in service.

1 (b) If a law enforcement agency cannot complete service upon the respondent within an additional  
2 10 days, then the petitioner shall serve the respondent by alternate means provided in Rule 4 of the Montana  
3 Rules of Civil Procedure.

4 (5) If an order entered by the court states that the respondent appeared in person before the court,  
5 the necessity for further service is waived and proof of service of that order is not necessary.

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7 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Termination and renewal of orders.** (1) (a) The respondent may submit  
8 one written request for a hearing to terminate an extreme risk order of protection issued under [sections 1  
9 through 12] during every 12-month period that the order is in effect, starting from the date of the order and  
10 continuing through any renewals.

11 (b) Upon receipt of the request for a hearing to terminate an extreme risk order of protection, the  
12 court shall set a date for a hearing. Notice of the request must be served on the petitioner in accordance with  
13 [section 5]. The hearing must occur no sooner than 14 days and no later than 30 days from the date of service  
14 of the request upon the petitioner.

15 (c) The respondent has the burden of proving that there is no longer good cause to believe that  
16 the respondent is a significant risk of causing personal injury to the respondent's self or others by having  
17 custody or control of, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm. The court may consider any relevant  
18 evidence, including evidence of the considerations listed in [section 3].

19 (d) If the court finds after the hearing that the respondent has met the burden, the court shall  
20 terminate the order.

21 (2) The court must notify the petitioner of the impending expiration of an extreme risk order of  
22 protection. Notice must be received by the petitioner at least 60 days before the date the order expires.

23 (3) (a) A partner or family member of a respondent or a law enforcement officer or agency may by  
24 motion request a renewal of an extreme risk order of protection at any time within 60 days before the expiration  
25 of the order.

26 (b) (i) Upon receipt of the motion to renew, the court shall order that a hearing be held within 14  
27 days from the date of the court's order.

28 (ii) The court may schedule a hearing by telephone in the manner provided in [section 3].



1 (iii) The respondent shall be personally served in the manner provided in [section 5].

2 (c) In determining whether to renew an extreme risk order of protection, the court shall consider all  
3 relevant evidence presented by the petitioner and follow the same procedure as provided in [section 3].

4 (d) If the court finds there is continued good cause to believe that there is danger of harm if the  
5 court does not act immediately as provided in [section 3], the court shall renew the order. If, following notice,  
6 the motion for renewal is uncontested and the petitioner seeks no modification of the order, the order may be  
7 renewed on the basis of the petitioner's motion or affidavit stating that there has been no material change in  
8 relevant circumstances since entry of the order and stating the reason for the requested renewal.

9 (e) An extreme risk order of protection may be renewed for 1 year, subject to termination as  
10 provided in subsection (1), or further renewal by order of the court.

11

12 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Surrender of firearms.** (1) Upon issuance of any extreme risk order of  
13 protection, including an ex parte extreme risk order of protection, the court shall order the respondent to  
14 surrender to the local law enforcement agency all firearms in the respondent's custody, control, or possession  
15 and any concealed weapons permit issued under 45-8-321.

16 (2) (a) The law enforcement officer serving any extreme risk order of protection under [sections 1  
17 through 12], including an ex parte extreme risk order of protection, shall request that the respondent  
18 immediately surrender all firearms in the respondent's custody, control, or possession and any concealed  
19 weapons permit issued under 45-8-321, or obtain a search warrant and conduct any search permitted by law  
20 for the firearms.

21 (b) The law enforcement officer shall take possession of all firearms belonging to the respondent  
22 that are surrendered, in plain view, or discovered pursuant to a lawful search.

23 (c) Alternatively, if personal service by a law enforcement officer is not possible, or not required  
24 because the respondent was present at the extreme risk order of protection hearing, the respondent shall  
25 surrender the firearms in a safe manner to the control of the local law enforcement agency within 48 hours of  
26 being served with the order by alternate service or within 48 hours of the hearing at which the respondent was  
27 present.

28 (3) At the time of surrender, a law enforcement officer taking possession of a firearm or concealed

1 weapons permit shall provide a receipt identifying all firearms that have been surrendered and provide a copy  
2 of the receipt to the respondent. Within 72 hours after service of the order, the law enforcement officer serving  
3 the order shall file the original receipt with the court and retain a copy of the receipt for the law enforcement  
4 agency.

5 (4) Upon the sworn statement or testimony of the petitioner or of any law enforcement officer  
6 alleging that the respondent failed to comply with the surrender of firearms as required, the court shall  
7 determine whether probable cause exists to believe that the respondent has failed to surrender all firearms in  
8 the respondent's custody, control, or possession. If probable cause exists, the court shall issue a warrant  
9 describing the firearms and authorizing a search of the locations where the firearms are reasonably believed to  
10 be and the seizure of any firearms discovered pursuant to the search.

11 (5) If a person other than the respondent claims title to any firearms surrendered pursuant to this  
12 section, and the person is determined by the law enforcement agency to be the lawful owner of the firearm, the  
13 firearm must be returned to the person, provided that:

14 (a) the firearm is removed from the respondent's custody, control, or possession and the lawful  
15 owner agrees to store the firearm in a manner such that the respondent does not have access to or control of  
16 the firearm; and

17 (b) the firearm is not otherwise unlawfully possessed by the lawful owner.

18 (6) Upon the issuance of a 1-year extreme risk order of protection, the court shall order a new  
19 hearing date and require the respondent to appear within 3 days from the issuance of the order. The court shall  
20 require a showing that the respondent has surrendered any firearms in the respondent's custody, control, or  
21 possession. The court may dismiss the hearing upon a satisfactory showing that the respondent is in  
22 compliance with the order.

23 (7) All law enforcement agencies must develop policies and procedures by October 1, 2023,  
24 regarding the acceptance, storage, and return of firearms required to be surrendered under [sections 1 through  
25 12].

26

27 **NEW SECTION. Section 8. Return and disposal of firearms.** (1) If an extreme risk order of  
28 protection is terminated or expires without renewal, a law enforcement agency holding any firearm that has

1 been surrendered pursuant to [sections 1 through 12] shall return any surrendered firearm requested by a  
2 respondent after confirming, through a background check, that the respondent is currently eligible to own or  
3 possess firearms under federal and state law and after confirming with the court that the extreme risk order of  
4 protection has terminated or has expired without renewal.

5 (2) A law enforcement agency shall provide notice to any family member or partner of the  
6 respondent before the return of any surrendered firearm and ammunition owned by the respondent.

7 (3) Any firearm surrendered by a respondent pursuant to [section 7] that remains unclaimed by the  
8 lawful owner must be disposed of in accordance with the law enforcement agency's policies and procedures for  
9 the disposal of firearms in the agency's custody.

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11 NEW SECTION. Section 9. Reporting of orders. (1) The clerk of court shall enter any extreme risk  
12 order of protection or ex parte extreme risk order of protection issued into a statewide judicial information  
13 system on the same day the order is issued.

14 (2) The clerk of the court shall forward a copy of an order issued under [sections 1 through 12] the  
15 same day the order is issued to the appropriate law enforcement agency specified in the order. Upon receipt of  
16 the copy of the order, the law enforcement agency shall immediately provide a copy to the department of justice  
17 for entry of the order into the national instant criminal background check system, any other federal or state  
18 computer-based systems used by law enforcement, or others that identify prohibited purchasers of firearms,  
19 and any computer-based criminal intelligence information system available in this state used by law  
20 enforcement agencies to list outstanding warrants. The order must remain in each system for the period stated  
21 in the order, and the department of justice may only expunge orders from the systems that have expired or  
22 terminated. Entry into the computer-based criminal intelligence information system constitutes notice to all law  
23 enforcement agencies of the existence of the order. The order is fully enforceable in any county in the state.

24 (3) The issuing court shall forward a copy of the respondent's driver's license or other acceptable  
25 identification with a photograph, or comparable information, along with the date the order was issued, to the  
26 sheriff of the county where the respondent resides within 3 days after the issuance of an extreme risk order of  
27 protection or ex parte extreme risk order of protection. Upon receipt of the information, the sheriff shall  
28 determine if the respondent has a concealed weapons permit. If the respondent has a concealed weapons

1 permit, the sheriff shall immediately revoke the permit.

2 (4) If an extreme risk order of protection is terminated before its expiration date, the clerk of the  
3 court shall forward on the same day a copy of the termination order to the appropriate law enforcement agency  
4 specified in the termination order. Upon receipt of the order, the law enforcement agency shall promptly remove  
5 the order from any computer-based system in which it was entered pursuant to subsection (2).

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7 **NEW SECTION. Section 10. Penalties.** (1) A person who files a petition under [sections 1 through  
8 12] knowing the information in the petition to be materially false, or with intent to harass the respondent, is guilty  
9 of a misdemeanor and shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a  
10 term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

11 (2) A person who has custody or control of, purchases, possesses, or receives a firearm with  
12 knowledge that the person is prohibited from doing so by an order issued under [sections 1 through 12] is guilty  
13 of a felony and shall be imprisoned in a state prison for not more than 10 years and fined not more than  
14 \$50,000, or both.

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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 11. Instructional and informational material.** (1) (a) The office of court  
17 administrator shall develop and prepare instructions and informational brochures, standard petitions and  
18 extreme risk order of protection forms, and a court staff handbook on the extreme risk order of protection  
19 process. The standard petition and order forms must be used after December 1, 2023, for all petitions filed and  
20 orders issued under [sections 1 through 12]. The instructions, brochures, forms, and handbook must be  
21 prepared in consultation with interested persons, including representatives of gun violence prevention groups,  
22 judges, law enforcement personnel, domestic violence experts, and suicide experts. Materials must be based  
23 on best practices and available electronically online to the public.

24 (b) The instructions must be designed to assist petitioners in completing the petition and must  
25 include a sample of a standard petition and order for protection forms.

26 (c) The instructions and standard petition must include a means for the petitioner to identify, with  
27 only lay knowledge, the firearms the respondent may own, possess, receive, or have in the respondent's  
28 custody or control. The instructions must provide pictures of types of firearms that the petitioner may choose

1 from to identify the relevant firearms, or an equivalent means to allow petitioners to identify firearms without  
2 requiring specific or technical knowledge regarding the firearms.

3 (d) The informational brochure must describe the use of and the process for obtaining, modifying,  
4 and terminating an extreme risk order of protection under [sections 1 through 12], and provide relevant forms.

5 (e) The extreme risk order of protection form must include, in a conspicuous location, notice of  
6 criminal penalties resulting from violation of the order, and the following statement: "You have the sole  
7 responsibility to avoid or refrain from violating this order's provisions. Only the court can change the order and  
8 only upon written application."

9 (f) The court staff handbook must allow for the addition of a community resource list by the clerk of  
10 district court.

11 (2) Any clerk of district court may create a community resource list of crisis intervention, mental  
12 health, substance abuse, interpreter, counseling, domestic violence experts, suicide experts, and other relevant  
13 resources serving the county in which the court is located. The court may make the community resource list  
14 available as part of or in addition to the informational brochures described in subsection (1).

15 (3) The office of court administrator shall distribute a master copy of the petition and order forms,  
16 instructions, and informational brochures to each clerk of district court and shall distribute a master copy of the  
17 petition and order forms to all district courts. Distribution of all documents must be in an electronic format or  
18 formats accessible to all courts and each clerk of district court in the state.

19 (4) The office of court administrator shall determine the significant non-English speaking or limited  
20 English speaking populations in the state. If any significant non-English speaking or limited English speaking  
21 populations in the state are discovered, the administrator shall arrange for translation of the instructions and  
22 informational brochures required by this section, which shall contain a sample of the standard petition and order  
23 for protection forms, into the languages spoken by the significant non-English speaking populations and shall  
24 distribute a master copy of the translated instructions and informational brochures to all court clerks by  
25 December 1, 2023.

26 (5) The office of court administrator shall update on an ongoing basis the instructions, brochures,  
27 standard petition and extreme risk order of protection forms, and court staff handbook as necessary, including  
28 when changes in the law make an update necessary.

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NEW SECTION. Section 12. Annual report. (1) On or before January 31 of each year, each clerk of court shall report to the office of court administrator the following information:

(a) the total number of petitions for an extreme risk order of protection, and the total number of those petitions that requested the order be issued ex parte during the previous calendar year;

(b) the total number of temporary ex parte extreme risk orders of protection issued and the total number denied during the previous calendar year;

(c) the total number of extreme risk orders of protection issued and the total number denied during the previous calendar year;

(d) the total number of extreme risk orders of protection vacated upon petition by the respondent during the previous calendar year; and

(e) the total number of extreme risk orders of protection extended during the previous calendar year.

(2) On or before April 1 of each year, the office of court administrator shall compile and publish on its website a report that aggregates the information received pursuant to subsection (1) and lists each category by county and type of court.

NEW SECTION. Section 13. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 12] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 40, chapter 15, and the provisions of Title 40, chapter 15, apply to [sections 1 through 12].

NEW SECTION. Section 14. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

- END -