

# ONE THING YOU CAN DO.

## Connecticut

When someone you love is showing warning signs that they might try to harm themselves, it can feel like there is nothing you can do in such a high-stakes and emotional situation.

**But there is one thing you *can do*: you can request a firearm seizure order to temporarily remove guns from the situation and help keep your loved one safe.**

In a moment of crisis, access to a gun can be the difference between life and death. If you're seeing signs that someone you love is considering harming themselves, you can seek a firearm seizure order to temporarily suspend their access to firearms, which are the most lethal form of suicide - until the crisis passes.

# Access to a gun can be the difference between life and death in a moment of crisis. Keep your loved one safe with a firearm seizure order.

## What does Connecticut's *firearm seizure order* do?

A firearm seizure order is a court order that temporarily restricts a person's access to guns when they pose a risk of harming themselves or others.

Firearm seizure orders are designed to help police officers and concerned family members intervene quickly in dangerous situations.

## Who can request a firearm seizure in Connecticut?

Under Connecticut law, only prosecutors or police officers may file a complaint for a firearm seizure order. This includes both state and local police officers.

## How do I seek a firearm seizure order?

**If you are worried that someone you know might harm themselves or others, your first step should be to contact a member of a police department and discuss your concerns with them.** Police officers can then investigate your concerns and request a firearm seizure order from the court, or ask a prosecutor to seek a firearm seizure order.

## What happens after a firearm seizure order has been requested?

Once the court receives a request from the prosecutor or police officer and issues a firearm seizure order, it will order the police to search for and take possession of the person's firearms within a reasonable time. The person will be notified that they have a right to a court hearing within 14 days.

During the hearing, the court decides whether the firearms should be held for one year or whether they should be returned to the person. If the court decides to hold the firearms, law enforcement will continue to hold them, or they can choose to transfer their guns to a third party who is legally allowed to hold them.

If the court finds that the person poses a risk of imminent personal injury to themselves or others, the court will order law enforcement to continue to hold the person's guns for up to one year. If a person's guns are held after the hearing, they may then choose to transfer the firearms to a third party who is legally allowed to hold them.

Also, the person will not be able to purchase new firearms.

## Will a firearm seizure order go on someone's criminal record?

No. A firearm seizure order is a civil court order. Its sole purpose is to remove firearms from a person who is at high risk of causing harm to themselves or to others. The court's decision to the order does not cause the person to have a criminal record.

**If you have immediate safety concerns, call 911 for emergency assistance.**

If you believe that a loved one is a risk to their own safety, you may wish to encourage them to seek expert help. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, seven days a week at:

**[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
text HOME to 741741**