

## Firearms Surrender Process for Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Protective Order Process

**What happens if someone (a Respondent) has a final protective order issued against them AND they own or have access to firearms or concealed weapons permit?**

- The respondent is required to surrender their firearm(s) and concealed weapon permit within 24 hours of being served with the protective order.
- The Respondent must file the Firearm Certification form with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Clerk within 48 hours of being served with the protective order.

**How can a Respondent surrender the firearm(s)?**

- The Respondent can take their firearm(s) to any police station, or make arrangements to have it dropped off with the Sheriff's Office Property Room by calling 703-246-4405
- Sell or give the firearm(s) to a dealer; or
- Sell or give the firearm(s) to anybody legally allowed to have a firearm

**What is the process for surrendering the firearm(s) to the sheriff's office?**

- Make an appointment with the **Sheriff's Office** by calling **703-246-4405** or call a local Fairfax County Police station to arrange to drop the firearm(s) off.
- The Sheriff's Office or police can store the firearm(s) safely.
- Bring unloaded firearm(s) and a copy of final protective order and government-issued ID.
- The Respondent and firearm(s) will be checked for outstanding warrants.
- The firearm(s) will be inventoried, and the Respondent will get a receipt, called a Weapon Forfeiture form.
- The firearm(s) will be stored until the final protective order expires or is dismissed

**Where is the Sheriff's Office Property room located?**

10520 Judicial Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Find the address of your local police station here: [Fairfax County Police Department | Police](#)

**What happens after the Respondent surrenders the firearm(s)?**

- The Respondent must also complete a Firearms Certification form [dc649.pdf \(vacourts.gov\)](#) provided in court that they have surrendered, transferred, or sold their firearms to the Sheriff's Office, a dealer, or someone who is legally allowed to have a gun **within 48 hours of service of the order** and file this certification with the clerk of the issuing court. The Firearm Certification form is served on the Respondent with the final protective order. The Respondent should complete, sign, and date the form.

Commented [YA1]: We can hyperlink the form as well

**Where should the Firearm Certification Form be filed?**

- The Firearm Certification Form should be filed with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Clerk at the Fairfax County Courthouse  
4110 Chain Bridge Rd.  
Third floor- Room 302  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Room 302 is the Clerk’s window located behind the elevators

**What happens if a Respondent cannot file the Firearms Certification form because the court is closed?**

- The Respondent must file the Firearms Certification form by the next business day that the court is open.

**What happens if the Respondent does not complete a Firearms Certification form?**

- If the Respondent is served with the final protective order and fails to complete and file the Firearms Certification form as required by law, the court may issue a capias-failure to comply which may result in the Respondent’s arrest or issue a show cause summons-failure to comply which may result in a finding of contempt and possible detention for the Respondent.
- *[Insert process for show cause]*

**When does the Respondent get their firearm(s) back?**

- After final protective order has expired or been dismissed and all checks by the Sheriff’s Office come back negative.

**What is the process for getting the firearm(s) back from the Sheriff’s Office?**

- Make an appointment with the Sheriff’s Office.
- Bring government-issued ID, copy of protective order dismissal, final protective order and Weapon Forfeiture form.
- After all checks for outstanding warrants come back negative, the Respondent will get their firearm(s) back

**What is the process for surrendering a concealed handgun permit?**

- Upon being served in court with a final protective order the Respondent must immediately surrender any concealed handgun permit to the court issuing the protective order. If the Respondent is served with a final protective order out of court, Respondent must immediately surrender any concealed handgun permit to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Clerk’s office:

4110 Chain Bridge Rd.  
Third Floor-Room 302  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Commented [YA2]: Need more clarification on how this is done.

**What happens if the Respondent has firearm(s) and does not surrender them after a final protective order has been issued?**

- If the Petitioner believes the Respondent has firearms and has not been truthful about possessing firearms, the Petitioner may contact law enforcement or file a Rule to Show Cause with the Court alleging a failure to comply. *(insert process for filing a Rule to Show Cause)*

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