

Firearms Surrender Process for Juvenile & 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 a 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 & Domestic Relations Court clerk within 48 hours of being served.

How can a respondent surrender the firearm(s)?

- The respondent can take their firearm(s) to the Fairfax County sheriff's office. Make arrangements to drop firearms off with the Sheriff's Office Property Room by calling 703-246-4405
- Sell or give the firearm(s) to a dealer
- Sell or give the firearm(s) to anyone 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** to arrange to drop the firearm(s) off.
- The sheriff's office 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

What happens after the respondent surrenders the firearm(s)?

- The respondent must also complete a Firearm 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 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.

Where should the Firearm Certification form be filed?

- The Firearm Certification Form should be filed with the Juvenile & 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 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 the final protective order has expired or been dismissed and all records checks by the sheriff's office come back negative, a respondent can get their firearms back.

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

- If the you believes the respondent has firearms and has not been truthful about possessing them, you 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]*