



Survey Results

Note: Qualitative responses were removed to preserve anonymity.

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Table 1. General Information

	Question Responses
Time range	5/18/26-5/29/26
PO Experience in Maryland (N = 104, missing)	N = 328
Yes (n = 128)	39.0%
No (n = 200)	61.0%
Ns (from survey question)	N = 108
Victim (18 filled out at least some questions, 14 answered all questions)	26.9% (n = 29)
Respondent (2 answered some questions; 1 answered all questions)	3.7% (n = 4)
Advocate/community provider (33 answered all questions)	40.7% (n = 44)
Law enforcement (9 answered all questions)	10.2% (n = 11)
Court/legal system actor (14 answered all questions)	18.5% (n = 20)
Total Completed Survey Responses (76 with at least partial information)	N = 71
Most recent year of experience with DVO Process	N = 108
2026	63.9%
2025	11.1%
2024	2.8%
2023	2.8%
2022	3.7%
Before 2022	8.3%
Other (nonsense responses)	7.4%
What county or city primarily associated with PO experience	
Allegany County	8.3%
Anne Arundel County	5.6%
Baltimore County	9.3%
Calvert County	1.9%
Carroll County	.9%
Cecil County	2.8%
Charles County	3.7%
Frederick County	6.5%
Harford County	1.9%
Howard County	3.7%
Kent County	1.9%
Montgomery County	16.7%
Prince George’s County	8.3%
Queen Anne’s County	1.9%

Somerset County	.9%
Talbot County	1.9%
Washington County	2.8%
Wicomico County	2.8%
Baltimore City	9.3%
Statewide / Multiple jurisdictions	9.3%

Table 1. County representation for those with at least partial survey responses

	N = 76
What county or city primarily associated with PO experience	
Allegany County	5.3%
Anne Arundel County	3.9%
Baltimore County	10.5%
Calvert County	2.6%
Carroll County	1.3%
Cecil County	3.9%
Charles County	5.3%
Frederick County	6.6%
Harford County	0%
Howard County	2.6%
Kent County	2.6%
Montgomery County	17.1%
Prince George’s County	9.2%
Queen Anne’s County	0%
Somerset County	1.3%
Talbot County	2.6%
Washington County	2.6%
Wicomico County	3.9%
Baltimore City	10.5%
Statewide / Multiple jurisdictions	7.9%

*One survey was deleted because they were clearly a survivor but they filled out the law enforcement survey instead of the survivor survey.

Table 2. Survivor Responses

	N = 18
Do you feel safe today from DV, dating violence, sex assault, or stalking?	
Yes, completely	33.3%
Yes, somewhat	33.3%
No, not really	16.7%

No, not at all	5.6%
Prefer not to answer	5.6%
Compared to before the protective order, do you feel safer now?	
Much safer	33.3%
Somewhat safer	27.8%
No change	16.7%
Somewhat less safe	11.1%
Much less safe	11.1%
Overall, how fairly and respectfully were you treated during the PO process?	
Not at all	11.1%
Slightly	22.2%
Moderately	22.2%
Very	16.7%
Completely	27.8%
How clear were the explanations you received about the PO process	
Slightly clear	22.2%
Moderately clear	16.7%
Very clear	38.9%
Extremely clear	16.7%
Not sure	5.6%
Did respondent have access to firearms when you filed for a PO	
Yes	77.8%
No	11.1%
Not sure	11.1%
Where did you file for your temporary PO	
Online	5.6%
Courthouse	55.6%
With District Court Commissioner	11.1%
At a family justice center	5.6%
Through attorney's	11.1%
No response	11.1%
N = 18	
How much time did it take you to complete the PO forms	
Less than 15 min	27.8%
15-30 minutes	11.1%

31-60 minutes	27.8%
1-2 hours	11.1%
Not sure	22.2%
Did you need help filling out forms?	
No	44.4%
Yes	55.6%
Help with:	N = 10
Language translation/interpretation	30.0%
Reading the form	20.0%
Understanding questions	40.0%
Help writing answers on the form	30.0%
Help understanding the difference between a peace order and a PO	10.0%
How would you describe your understanding of the temporary PO hearing process	
I did not understand it at all	5.9%
I understood a little	5.9%
I understood some parts but not all	11.8%
I mostly understood it	35.3%
I completely understood it	41.2%
At the temporary PO hearing, did the judge ask about firearms	
Yes	58.8%
No	23.5%
Not sure	17.6%
Did you raise any concerns about firearms in your application or during the temporary PO hearing?	
No	29.4%
Not sure	11.8%
Yes	58.8%
If no, why not?	N = 10
Concerned about retaliation	22.2%
I forgot	11.1%
I did not know I could raise concerns	22.2%
I did not have concerns about firearms	22.2%
I can't remember	11.1%
No response	11.1%

Were you notified when the respondent was served with the temporary PO	N = 16
Yes	50.0%
No	37.5%
Not sure	12.5%
How long did it take for respondent to be served	N = 16
1-2 days	18.8%
3-7 days	25.0%
More than 7 days	18.8%
Not sure	25.0%
Redacted	6.25%
Not a comprehensible response	6.25%
For the final PO hearing, which best describes your situation	N = 16
I paid for an attorney	31.3%
I tried to hire a private attorney but could not get one	6.3%
I had legal aid or free/low-cost attorney	37.5%
I tried to get legal aid or free/low-cost representation but could not	6.3%
I did not try to get a lawyer	18.8%
How would you describe your understanding of the final PO hearing process	N = 16
I did not understand at all	6.3%
I understood a little	6.3%
I understood some parts but not all	18.8%
I mostly understood	31.3%
I completely understood	25.0%
Not sure	12.5%

	N = 16
At the final PO hearing did the judge ask about firearms	
Yes	31.3%
No	31.3%
N/A	18.8%
Not sure	18.8%
Did you bring up any concerns around firearms at the final PO hearing	N = 16
Yes	31.3
Prefer not to answer	6.3
No	62.5
Reason if no Redacted	N = 10

Were you informed whether the respondent surrendered firearms	N = 16
Yes	25.0%
No	62.5%
Not sure	12.5%
How soon should respondents be required to surrender firearms after the PO is issued	N = 16
Same day	75.0%
Within 24 hours	6.3%
Not sure	18.8%

Was PO violated	N=16
No	6.3%
Not sure	43.8%
Prefer not to answer	6.3%
Yes	43.8%
How was the PO violated?	N = 7
Contacted me	100%
Came near mor or a prohibited location	42.9%
Threatened, harassed, or intimidated me	57.1%
Physically harmed or attempted to harm me	28.6%
Violated custody or visitation terms	28.6%
<i>Redacted</i>	14.3%
<i>Redacted</i>	14.3%
Before today, were you aware of the Maryland's ERPO process	N = 14
Yes	42.9%
No	50.0%
Not sure	7.1%
Did you seek an ERPO	N = 14
Yes	21.4%
No	57.1%
Not sure	21.4%
How confident are you that firearms surrender requirements are consistently enforced	N = 14
Very	14.3%
Somewhat	14.3%

Not very	21.4%
Not at all	35.7%
Not sure	14.3%
Overall, how effective is Maryland's current process for enforcing firearms surrender in PO cases	
	N = 14
Very effective	14.3%
Somewhat	21.4%
Not at all	28.6%
Not sure	35.7%

What county or city primarily associated with PO experience	N=18
Allegany County	5.6%
Anne Arundel County	5.6%
Baltimore County	11.1%
Calvert County	0%
Carroll County	0%
Cecil County	11.1%
Charles County	5.6%
Frederick County	22.2%
Harford County	0%
Howard County	0%
Kent County	5.6%
Montgomery County	11.1%
Prince George's County	5.6%
Queen Anne's County	0%
Somerset County	5.6%
Talbot County	0%
Washington County	0%
Wicomico County	0%
Baltimore City	5.6%
Statewide / Multiple jurisdictions	5.6%

Victim/survivor open-ended

Single most important change Maryland should make to improve firearm surrender and safety in PO cases-Redacted

Anything else to share-Redacted

Table 3. Respondent Responses

	N = 2
How were you first informed that a temporary PO was issued against you	
Served by law enforcement	100%
When you first received or learned about the TPO, how well di you understand what it required you to do	
I did not understand at all	50.0%
I mostly understood it	50.0%
At the time the TPO was issued, did you own or have access to guns	
No	100%
Were you informed that possessing firearms may be prohibited after a final PO is issued	
Yes	100%
At the final PO hearing did the judge ask you about firearms	
Yes	50.0%
No	50.0%
At the final PO hearing, did the judge explain what you were required to do to surrender firearms	
Yes	50.0%
Not sure	50.0%
After the final PO was issued, did you receive written instructions explaining how to surrender firearms	
Yes	50.0%
N/A	50.0%
After the final PO was issued, were you given a clear deadline for when firearms had to be surrendered	
Yes	50.0%
N/A	50.0%
If you had access to firearms after the final PO was issued, how long did it take for you to surrendy them	
Same day	50.05
N/A	50.0%

Did you understand what might happen if you did not surrender firearms	
Yes	50.0%
N/A	50.0%
Overall how clear was the firearm surrender process	
Very clear	50.0%
N/A	50.0%
If you interacted with law enforcement about your PO, how respectfully were you treated	
Very respectfully	50.0%
Extremely respectfully	50.0%
How well did you understand the final PO hearing process	
Not at all	50.0%
I did understand	50.0%
Have you ever been arrested or held in contempt for violated a final PO	
No	100%
How confident are you that firearm surrender requirements are consistently enforced across Maryland	N = 1
Very confident	100%
How effective is Maryland's current process for enforcing firearm surrender in PO cases	N = 1
Very effective	100%
What is the single most important change Maryland should make to improve firearm surrender and safety in PO cases	N = 1
Not sure	100%
What county or city is primarily associated with PO experience	
Baltimore and Montgomery County	

No open-ended comments

Table 4. Advocate/Community Provider

	N = 33
Do you discuss firearm surrender requirements with petitioners when assisting them with POs	
Yes	75.8%
No	12.1%
Sometimes	12.1%
Would any of the following help you better assist clients with firearm related issues	
Advocate guide or written tools	63.6%
Training on firearm surrender laws or processes	66.7%
Clearer court instructions	72.7%
Better coordination with LE	78.8%
Transparency, notification of petitioners when firearms are surrendered	6.0%
Do judges discuss firearm removal at the TPO stage	
Always	18.2%
Often	9.1%
Sometimes	36.4%
Rarely	24.2%
Not sure	12.1%
Do judges discuss firearm removal at final PO hearing	
Always	42.4%
Often	24.2%
Sometimes	24.2%
Rarely	6.1%
Not sure	3.0%

What are the biggest concerns survivors have about firearms in DV cases	
The respondent may use a firearm to threaten or harm survivor	81.8%
The respondent may keep firearms after being ordered to surrender	72.7%
Survivors may not know whether firearms were surrendered or removed	78.8%
Firearms may be hidden or stored elsewhere	75.8%
Law enforcement may not remove firearms quickly	66.6%
Fear of police involvement	36.4%
Immigration-related concerns	21.2%
Economic retaliation	18.2%

Fear the respondent will harm petitioners friends or family	60.6%
Fear respondent will harm pets	42.4%
Other: Redacted	
Do survivors fear identifying firearms to the police or courts due to safety or legal concerns	
Yes	30.3%
No	27.3%
Sometimes	42.4%
How often do survivors know whether firearms were actually surrendered or removed	
Never	15.2%
Rarely	30.3%
Sometimes	30.3%
Often	6.1%
Very often	3.0%
Not sure	15.2%
In your experience, have firearm-related PO violations been prosecuted	
Yes	15.2%
No	36.4%
Not sure	48.5%

Should courts hold mandatory compliance review hearing to confirm firearm surrender	
Yes	90.9%
No	6.1%
Not sure	3.0%
Should respondents be required to list any firearms they own or have access to when served with the TPO	
Yes	90.9%
No	6.1%
Not sure	3.0%
Should respondents be required to list any firearms they own or have access to when served with the final PO	
Yes	97.0%
Not sure	3.0%

Should Maryland create a statewide firearm surrender tracking system	
Yes	93.9%
No	3.0%
Not sure	3.0%
Should firearm surrender compliance be checked on regular basis after final PO	
Yes	93.9%
Not sure	6.1%
What changes should Maryland adapt to improve service of POs	
Alternative serve (email, text, social media) in certain cases	60.6%
Third party service at respondent's home in certain cases	54.5%
Clearer instructions to petitioners about service	51.5%
Prioritizing high-risk cases for faster service	78.8%
Improved training for officers or staff	81.8%
Increased funding or resources	60.6%
Redacted	18.0%

How soon should respondents be required to surrender firearms after a final PO	
Immediately (same day)	66.7%
Within 24 hours	18.2%
Within 48 hours (1 person said, but if R does not appear at FPO, service of the FPO is by mail. Problematic)	12.1%
Within 7 days	3.0%
What documentation should respondents be required to provide to show they do not have firearms	
Receipt from LE for surrendered firearms	96.9%
Signed declaration of no firearms	84.8%
Both of the above	3.0%
if any firearms have been sold within the past year, then proof of sale	3.0%
If they are found to be dishonest, it should be clearly stated they are in violation and what the consequence is.	3.0%
Proof of sale or theft.	3.0%
What should happen if respondents do not provide required proof of firearm surrender	
Court schedules a compliance hearing	18.2%
LE seeks a search or retrieval warrant	36.4%

Contempt proceedings	15.2%
Criminal charges	24.2%
All of the above	3.0%
Redacted	3.0%
How confident are you that firearm surrender requirements are consistently enforced across Maryland	
Somewhat	18.2%
Not very	27.3%
Not at all	42.4%
Not sure	12.1%
Overall, how effective is Maryland's current process for enforcing firearm surrender in PO cases	
Very effective	3.0%
Somewhat	39.4%
Not very	30.3%
Not at all	18.2%
Not sure	9.1%

What county or city primarily associated with PO experience	
Allegany County	9.1%
Anne Arundel County	3.0%
Baltimore County	9.1%
Calvert County	3.0%
Carroll County	3.0%
Cecil County	3.0%
Charles County	3.0%
Frederick County	0%
Harford County	0%
Howard County	3.0%
Kent County	0%
Montgomery County	18.2%
Prince George's County	6.1%
Queen Anne's County	0%
Somerset County	0%
Talbot County	0%
Washington County	6.1%

Wicomico County	6.1%
Baltimore City	18.2%
Statewide / Multiple jurisdictions	9.1%

Single most important change-Redacted
What else do you want to share-Redacted

Table 5. Law enforcement

	N = 9*
After a TPO is issued, how quickly is it entered into the METERS in your jurisdiction	
Same day	66.7%
Within 24 hours	33.3%
After a final PO is issued, how quickly is it typically entered into METERS	
Same day	66.7%
Within 24 hours	33.3%
What are the main reasons for delays in METERS entry	
Staffing limitations	55.6%
Court-to-LE communication delays	55.6%
Incomplete paperwork	11.1%
Not sure	33.3%
Does your jurisdiction manually enter POs into METERS	
Yes	100%
Do officers in your jurisdiction have reliable access to METERS from patrol vehicles or in the field	
Yes	77.8%
Somewhat	11.1%
Not sure	11.1%
If access to METERS is inconsistent or unavailable what is the primary issue	
Connectivity or service gaps	11.1%
Device limitations	33.3%
Login or permission issues	11.1%
Not sure	33.3%
N/A	11.1%

What most prevents successful or timely service of TPOs	
Unable to locate respondent	88.9%
Incorrect or outdated address	77.8%
Respondent avoiding service	77.8%
Staffing limitations	44.4%
Competing calls for service	44.4%
Safety concerns during service	11.1%
Not sure	11.1%

*One survey was deleted because they were clearly a survivor but they filled out the law enforcement survey instead of the survivor survey.

When the TPO is served, is the petitioner routinely notified	
Yes, always	44.4%
Yes sometimes	55.6%
At the time of service, how often do officers explain the surrender requirements to respondents	
Always	55.6%
Often	33.3%
Sometimes	11.1%
During service of POs how often do officers encounter a situation where firearms are at the location where the respondent is being served	
Sometimes	100%
How often are firearms surrendered voluntarily after service or court order, without further enforcement actions	
Often	22.2%
Sometimes	55.6%
Rarely	22.2%
Does your agency routinely seize firearms when required under Maryland law in DV cases	
Almost always	44.4%
Most of the time	22.2%
Some of the time	33.3%
How much of a problem is firearm storage capacity in your jurisdiction	
Not a problem	22.2%
A small problem	44.4%

A moderate problem	22.2%
Not sure	11.1%
Should LE agencies be allowed to charge a storage fee for guns removed under a PO	
Yes	22.2%
No	55.6%
Not sure	22.2%

	N = 9
What are the biggest barriers to removing firearms from respondents	
Respondent hides or refuses to disclose firearms	88.8%
Limited LE time/resources	55.6%
Delays in service	44.4%
Legal limits without a warrant	55.6%
Firearms stored elsewhere	66.7%
Poor court-to-LE coordination	33.3%
Respondent claims no firearms	66.7%
Not sure	11.1%
How often do you seek a PO search warrant when firearms are not relinquished	
Rarely	66.7%
Sometimes	22.2%
N/A	11.1%
Does your agency have sufficient and effective technology to carry out PO service and firearm surrender enforcement	
Yes	44.4%
Somewhat	44.4%
Not sure	11.1%
Technology gaps include:	
No real time protective order status updates	33.3%
No statewide tracking of firearm surrender	55.6%
Poor integration between court and LE systems	44.4%
Limited mobile access in the field	33.3%
Duplicative data entry	11.1%
Manual data entry	22.2%
Statewide firearm surrender tracking system	55.6%
Automated notifications when orders are issued or served	33.3%
Improved mobile METERS access	33.3%

Better court-LE data integration	44.4%
Not sure	55.6%
Redacted	11.1%

If Maryland could implement one technology improvement what would help most	
Statewide firearm surrender tracking system	44.4%
Automated notifications when orders are issued or served	33.3%
Better court-LE data integration	11.1%
Redacted	11.1%
Does your jurisdiction have sufficient staffing to serve respondents with POs within 7 days	
Almost always	44.4%
Most of the time	22.2%
Some of the time	11.1%
Not very often	22.2%
If staffing is not sufficient, what contributes most to service delays	
High caseload volume	55.6%
Not enough process servers	33.3%
Competing calls for service	66.7%
Rural geography or travel time	22.2%
Limited overtime funding	33.3%
Not sure	11.1%
Redacted	22.2%
How often do you see effective cross-jurisdiction cooperation in PO or firearm enforcement cases	
Rarely	11.1%
Sometimes	55.6%
Often	33.3%
How confident are you that firearm surrender requirements are consistently enforced across Maryland	
Somewhat	44.4%
Not very	44.4%
Not sure	11.1%
Overall, how effective is Maryland's current process for enforcing firearm surrender in PO cases	

Somewhat	77.8%
Not very	22.2%

What county or city primarily associated with PO experience	
Allegany County	0%
Anne Arundel County	0%
Baltimore County	11.1%
Calvert County	0%
Carroll County	0%
Cecil County	0%
Charles County	0%
Frederick County	0%
Harford County	0%
Howard County	11.1%
Kent County	11.1%
Montgomery County	11.1%
Prince George’s County	33.3%
Queen Anne’s County	0%
Somerset County	0%
Talbot County	22.2%
Washington County	0%
Wicomico County	0%
Baltimore City	0%
Statewide / Multiple jurisdictions	0%

One change-Redacted

What else to share-Redacted

Table 6. Court/Legal System Actor

	N = 14
How well do current PO forms support identifying firearms	
Very well	7.1%
Somewhat	50.0%
Not very well	28.6%
Not at all	14.3%

How well do current PO forms support facilitating the surrender of firearms by respondent	
Very well	21.4%
Somewhat	35.7%
Not very well	35.7%
Not sure	7.1%
How well do current process support confirming firearm removal	
Very well	7.1%
Somewhat	14.3%
Not very well	35.7%
Not at all	35.7%
Not sure	7.1%
When should judges ask about firearms during the PO process	
At both hearings	92.9%
At neither hearing	7.1%
Should respondent be required to list firearms they own or have access to when served with final PO	
Yes	85.7%
No	7.1%
Not sure	7.1%
Should the court automatically schedule a compliance hearing if the respondent does not provide proof of firearm surrender or declaration of no firearms	
Yes	92.9%
No	7.1%
Should Maryland create a statewide system to track firearm surrender and compliance in PO cases	
Yes	92.9%
No	7.1%
Should firearm surrender compliance be audited or reviewed regularly at the final PO stage	
Yes	92.9%
Not sure	7.1%

Should any elements of the ERPO process be adapted to improve firearm removal in DV PO cases	
Yes	71.4%
No	7.1%
Not sure	21.45
If yes, what elements	N = 10
Clear timelines for firearm removal	90.0%
Regular compliance checks	80.0%
Faster warrant process for noncompliance	60.0%
Better tracking or documentation of firearm surrender	100%
Better coordination between courts and LE	100%
Not sure	20.0%
How effective is the current process for electronically transmitting POs from courts to LE	
Very	14.3%
Somewhat	42.9%
Not very	7.1%
Not at all	7.1%
Not sure	28.6%
How effective is coordination between courts and LE in enforcing firearms surrender requirements in PO Cases	
Very	14.3%
Somewhat	21.4%
Not very	28.6%
Not at all	21.4%
Not sure	14.3%
Do language access needs create challenges in ensuring respondents understand firearm surrender requirements	
Yes, frequently	21.4%
Yes, sometimes	35.7%
Rarely	42.9%
Does the court have sufficient staff and resources to support firearm surrender compliance	
Yes	7.1%
Somewhat	21.4%
No	64.3%
Not sure	7.1%

How quickly should respondents be required to surrender firearms after a final PO is issued	
Immediately (same day)	57.1%
Within 24 hours	28.6%
Within 48 hours	14.3%
What proof should respondents be required to provide to the court	
Receipt showing firearms were surrendered	92.9%
Signed declaration that respondent does not possess firearms	64.3%
<i>Redacted</i>	7.1%
What should occur if a respondent does not provide required proof of firearm surrender or non-possession	
The court should schedule a compliance hearing	85.7%
LE should seek search or retrieval warrant	42.9%
The petitioner should be able to file for contempt if they choose	57.1%
Criminal charges should be considered	42.9%
How confident are you that firearm surrender requirements are consistently enforced across Maryland	
Very	14.3%
Somewhat	14.3%
Not very	42.9%
Not at all	21.4%
Not sure	7.1%
Overall, how effective is Maryland's current process for enforcing firearm surrender in PO cases	
Very effective	14.3%
Somewhat	28.6%
Not very	28.6%
Not at all	14.3%
Not sure	14.3%
What county or city primarily associated with PO experience	
Allegany County	0%

Anne Arundel County	7.1%
Baltimore County	7.1%
Calvert County	7.1%
Carroll County	0%
Cecil County	0%
Charles County	14.3%
Frederick County	7.1%
Harford County	0%
Howard County	0%
Kent County	0%
Montgomery County	21.4%
Prince George's County	7.1%
Queen Anne's County	0%
Somerset County	0%
Talbot County	0%
Washington County	0%
Wicomico County	7.1%
Baltimore City	7.1%
Statewide / Multiple jurisdictions	14.3%

One change-Redacted

What else to share-Redacted