



A statewide hub for DVPO firearm surrender practice

Practical tools for safer, more consistent firearm surrender across Maryland

Supported by funding from the Maryland Department of Health's Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention (CFVPI), BWJP engaged practitioners across Maryland to examine how domestic violence protective order (DVPO) firearm surrender is carried out statewide.

Federal and Maryland law prohibit a person from possessing or purchasing a firearm or ammunition once a domestic violence protective order has been issued against them. But no consistent, statewide process exists for removing or surrendering those firearms — each jurisdiction and law enforcement agency has been left to build its own.

That gap shows up as delayed or ineffective service of protective orders, inconsistent surrender and verification protocols, limited technology for tracking compliance, weak coordination between courts and law enforcement, and unreliable notice to survivors and respondents about what's required of them.

Built on Maryland's statewide DVPO firearm surrender needs assessment — identifying opportunities to improve consistency, accountability, communication, survivor notification, compliance verification, and cross-system collaboration.

- Courts
- Law enforcement
- Advocates & survivor services
- Government & public health
- Community-based organizations

Advancing safe and effective implementation

The goal of the Maryland Resource Center is to support a more coordinated, accountable, and survivor-centered firearm surrender system across Maryland. By connecting multidisciplinary professionals with practical resources, implementation tools, and peer learning opportunities, the MRC helps jurisdictions move from identifying challenges to implementing solutions that enhance survivor safety and improve system effectiveness.

Our focus areas

The Maryland Resource Center supports efforts to:

- Strengthen service and firearm surrender implementation practices.
- Improve compliance monitoring, verification, and accountability.
- Enhance communication and information sharing among system partners.

- Expand survivor-centered and culturally responsive approaches.
- Promote promising practices and innovation across jurisdictions.
- Foster multidisciplinary collaboration and continuous learning.
- Support data-informed decision-making and system improvement.

Community of Practice

A statewide learning and implementation network.

The Maryland DVPO Firearm Surrender Community of Practice (CoP) brings together professionals from courts, law enforcement, advocacy organizations, legal services, public health, government agencies, and community-based organizations.

Rather than working in isolation, participants learn from one another's experiences, examine implementation challenges, and identify practical solutions that can be adapted across jurisdictions. The CoP helps translate the recommendations from Maryland's statewide needs assessment into real-world improvements in policy, practice, and collaboration.

Each Community of Practice track focuses on a specific implementation area and works collaboratively to develop resources that are added to the Maryland Resource Center — a growing library of tools and promising practices for jurisdictions statewide.

- Share promising practices already working in Maryland jurisdictions.
- Explore solutions to common implementation challenges.
- Develop practical tools, templates, and protocols.

- Learn from multidisciplinary peers and subject matter experts.
- Strengthen collaboration between courts, law enforcement, advocates, and other partners.
- Identify strategies to improve compliance, accountability, communication, and survivor safety.
- Contribute resources that can be replicated and adapted statewide.

What you'll find in the MRC

Practical tools and resources that organizations can adapt and implement in their own jurisdictions — designed to support consistent, effective, survivor-centered implementation of firearm surrender requirements across Maryland.

Process & compliance

Model firearm surrender and recovery workflows

Interagency communication protocols

Compliance monitoring and verification tools

Firearm inventory, receipt, and tracking templates

People & communication

Survivor notification and communication resources

Respondent advisement and instruction materials

Bench cards and judicial reference tools

Service of process and risk-assessment guidance

Learning & practice

Language-access and culturally responsive resources

Training materials, webinars, and implementation guides

Maryland promising practices and case examples

Community of Practice-developed tools and resources



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