

**Program Manager for Implementing Statutory Firearms Prohibitions**

**Establish, develop and implement a regional response to enforcement of firearms removal pursuant to HB 1840 and HB 1491**

**Primary goals and responsibilities**

**Phase 1—immediate response to gaps in enforcement**

1. Meet weekly with the Firearm Surrender Work Group and John Howell from the Cedar River Group, who is coordinating a regional response to the service of domestic violence protection orders. The coordinated efforts with these established work groups will prevent a duplication of the extensive work done in this area and foster interagency relationships, which will be critical to phase two of the project.
2. The multi-agency Firearm Surrender Workgroup has developed an immediate response to the gaps in compliance and enforcement of firearm surrender under HB 1840. The practices and procedures[[1]](#footnote-1) developed by the workgroup are preliminary and will be modified and adapted under the guidance and supervision of the **Project Manager**. The proposed immediate response requires the hiring of two critical positions:
   1. A **Court Coordinator** assigned to the protection order hearings in Superior Court that will provide federal and state firearms information to judges to allow the court to make an informed decision regarding issuance of a surrender order.[[2]](#footnote-2) The **Court Coordinator** will review petitions, track non-compliance and report that non-compliance to law enforcement and refer high risk cases to the high-risk firearms prosecutor.
   2. A **High-Risk Firearms Prosecutor** that will enforce the non-compliance by filing criminal charges and coordinating with law enforcement and assist in drafting search warrants to facilitate the surrender of firearms in high risk cases.

The project manager will meet weekly with the **Court Coordinator** and **High Risk Firearms Prosecutor** and evaluate the preliminary procedures related to these positions and develop and improve these practices with the intention of presenting them as a model for implementation in other jurisdictions.

1. Securing federal and state credentials to allow the **Court Coordinator** access to:
   1. Federal firearms database (nix)
   2. National criminal history database (NCIC)
   3. Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) firearms and concealed pistol license registry
   4. Federal and State Protection order history
2. Act as a liaison for the **High-Risk Firearms Prosecutor** to facilitate surrender of firearms located in jurisdictions outside the City of Seattle and coordinate with the King County Prosecutor’s Office on felony referrals of unlawful possession of a firearm charges.

**Phase 2—Jurisdictional Coordination with the Courts, Police Agencies and Prosecutors**

1. Enhance the effectiveness of court and law enforcement processes and procedures related to DV and **Extreme Risk Protection Orders** by implementing best practices in the field and recommendations of the firearms removal system reform work groups.
   1. Coordinate with the 39 different police agencies in King County to establish clear responsibility for enforcement of firearm surrender orders.
   2. Coordinate with 911 call centers in King County to develop procedures to inquire about firearms during the initial domestic violence calls, which will enhance safety for responding officers as well as collect critical and recent information about firearms for future search warrants and seizure.
   3. Coordinate with municipal law enforcement agencies in King County to develop practices and procedures to:
      1. Facilitate the surrender of firearms at the time of service of domestic violence protection orders.
      2. Establish contact personnel each jurisdiction for service of search warrants to seize firearms.
      3. Develop practices and procedures for patrol officers to inquire and legally seize firearms after responding to a domestic violence incident.
      4. Facilitate with law enforcement agencies tracking of firearms possession and surrender in each agency’s individualized report/case management systems.
   4. Coordinate with municipal, tribal and district courts to establish policy and procedures for:
      1. Obtaining search warrants for firearms seizure in each jurisdiction and establish contact personnel with each court.
      2. Tracking of non-compliance and referral of criminal charges pursuant to criminal no-contact orders.
2. Work with community and system victim advocates to:
   * 1. Effectively respond to families and victims requesting **Extreme Risk Protection Orders.**
     2. Work with advocates on improving system access and support for petitioners.
     3. Work with advocates to effectively gather critical firearms information form victims or family member that are seeking **Extreme Risk Protection Orders** or compliance with firearm surrender orders pursuant to a domestic violence protection order.

**Phase 3—Drafting of Established Practices and Procedures, Training and Inter-Agency Memorandums of Understanding**

1. Ensure appropriate research-based evaluation mechanisms are established and implemented for regular reporting on critical outcome measures and report to the public whether the laws are effectively implemented and safety for survivors and communities is improved.
2. Provide training to judges, law enforcement, prosecutors and court personnel regarding best practices and procedures to facilitate firearm surrender.
3. Develop and draft best practices and procedures and put in place operating protocols to ensure fidelity of approach over time as system stakeholders’ change.
4. Assess needs for and design tools, training, and technical assistance. Work with state and national organizations to find and develop needed resources.
5. Provide a final report to the City Council on the implementation and enforcement of HB 1840 and HB 1491.

1. See court coordinator and high risk firearms prosecutor practices and procedures 12.15.17 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Currently Judges reviewing domestic violence protection orders do not have access to critical state and federal firearms information. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)