Indiana's Jake Laird Law: Implementation Guide



About This Guide

About the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions

The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions combines the expertise of respected gun violence researchers with the skills of experienced gun violence prevention advocates. We use a public health approach to conduct rigorous scientific research to identify a range of innovative solutions to gun violence. Using the best available science, our Center works toward expanding evidence-based advocacy and policy-making efforts grounded in principles of equity. This combination of expertise creates a unique opportunity to turn public health research into action that reduces deaths and injuries from gun violence.

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Special thanks to our Indiana-based reviewers: Raquel Ramirez (General Counsel, Indiana Law Enforcement Academy), Sharon Jackson (Deputy General Counsel, Indiana Office of the Governor), and Julie Dutrieux (Police Detective, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department)

Support for This Guide

We recognize the Joyce Foundation's generous support of this project.

How to Cite This Guide

Fleisher, K. et al. (2025). "Indiana's Jake Laird Law: Implementation Guide." Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions.



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Purpose & Introduction

The Indiana Jake Laird Law (JLL) Implementation Guide is designed for law enforcement officers, attorneys, judges, mental and behavioral health professionals, public health practitioners, suicide prevention and gun violence prevention advocates, and other stakeholders in Indiana to understand key concepts of the JLL.

The JLL allows for the issuance of risk warrants, which are <u>civil orders</u> <u>designed to prevent violence with firearms</u>.¹ Commonly known as extreme risk protection order (ERPO) or "red flag" law, the JLL is used to temporarily prohibit an individual for whom there is credible information to believe is at risk of harming themselves and/or others from purchasing or possessing firearms while the order is in effect, and allows law enforcement to temporarily seize and retain firearms under the law.

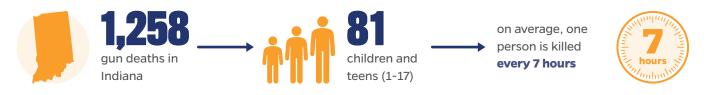
In Indiana, only law enforcement agencies can petition for risk warrants under the JLL and are also the only entities that can serve court-issued warrants to remove a respondent's firearm(s). **Importantly, risk warrants are only one tool—albeit an important one—to prevent firearm violence before it occurs. The JLL is used with the intent of preventing mass shootings, suicides by firearm, and interpersonal gun violence.**



Terminology used to describe the JLL and how it works in practice varies across the state, but most law enforcement officials refer to the JLL as both the order and process for firearm removal. However, for the purposes of this guide, we will refer to the law itself as the "Jake Laird Law (JLL)" and the orders by the judges in JLL cases as "risk warrants," as is in line with Indiana statute.

Gun Violence in Indiana

Sourced from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, <u>WONDER Online Database</u>.² Data reflects firearm deaths and rates per 100,000 people. 2023 data is displayed, as it is the latest year for which the CDC has published complete data.



436 GUN HOMICIDES

757 GUN SUICIDES

66 OTHER GUN DEATHS

Key Takeaways

- The overall gun death rate increased 5% from 2022 to 2023. From 2014 to 2023, the overall gun death rate increased by 48%.
- · Indiana had the 4th highest gun sucide rate among Black individuals in the country in 2023.
- Firearms were the leading cause of death among children and teens ages 1–17 in 2023.
- From July 1, 2022 June 30, 2023, there were 78 domestic violence-related homicides in Indiana. More than 84% of the homicides were by firearm.³

Firearms are used in the majority of homicides and suicides

Trends Over Time RATE PER 100,000 20 16 12 8 4 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 TOTAL GUN DEATH RATE GUN HOMICIDE RATE GUN SUICIDE RATE



Gun violence costs Hoosiers \$13.1 billion per year. **This amounts to \$1,915 per person**.⁴



The overall gun suicide rate **increased by 12%** from 2022 to 2023. In the last decade, the overall gun suicide rate **increased by 30%**.



What Is the Jake Laird Law?

Intention of Jake Laird Law

There are times when an individual is at risk of suicide and/or interpersonal violence, yet they are not prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms.

The JLL allows law enforcement officers to seize firearms from a person who poses a physical danger to themselves and/or others. The intent is to temporarily separate a person at risk from the most lethal means at their disposal: firearms. Officers may either file a warrant when the risk is detected and allow up to 48 hours for the court to respond, or officers may seize firearms in the course of their regular duties when appropriate and petition the court to continue holding the firearms until the risk of harm has been reduced.

Importantly, the <u>issuance of risk warrants</u> are civil proceedings, resulting in the temporary dispossession of firearms.⁵ The JLL only allows for law enforcement to take custody of firearms, rather than custody of a person, preserving the respondent's bodily autonomy while keeping them and those around them safe.

Enactment of the Law in Indiana

Indiana's Jake Laird Law is named for a law enforcement officer—Jake Laird—who was shot and killed while responding to a call of a man walking in a neighborhood street with a rifle in August 2004.⁶ An investigation determined that earlier in the year, the shooter had been placed under immediate detention and had his firearms seized. His firearms were subsequently returned to him because the law enforcement agency did not have the authority to hold them.

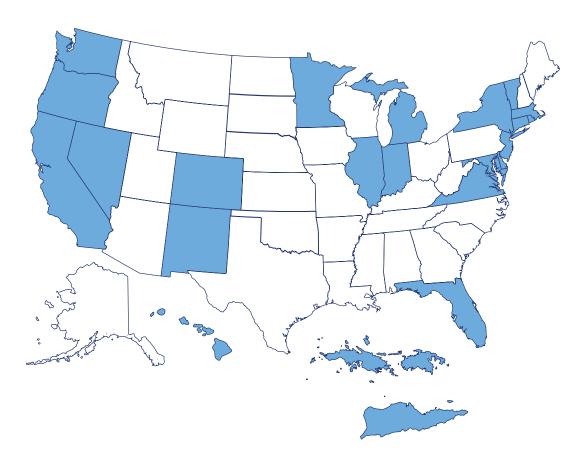
The <u>law was passed in 2005</u> by a near-unanimous vote in the state Senate and a unanimous vote in the state House.⁷ The law was amended in 2019 to clarify the process for judicial proceedings.



Similar Laws in 20 Other States Plus DC and U.S. Virgin Islands

Across the U.S., <u>policies similar to the Jake Laird Law</u> are known by various names:⁸ Extreme Risk Laws, Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs), Lethal Violence Protective Orders (LVPOs), Substantial Risk Orders (SROs), among others, and more colloquially as "red flag" laws.

Map of States With ERPO or ERPO-Style Laws (April 2025)



States in blue have adopted ERPO laws. These 21 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands include: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.



How to Use the Jake Laird Law

Understanding the Risk Warrant Process

- A law enforcement officer <u>petitions the court for a warrant to seize firearms</u> from a person who poses a danger to themselves or others (a warrant which must be, by statute, served within 10 days but which best practice says should be served as soon as possible) OR a law enforcement officer removes firearms during their regular course of duty under specific circumstances and later seeks a Risk Warrant order from the court.⁹
 - a. To petition for the risk warrant under the JLL (in order to either remove the firearms or retain custody of the removed firearms, depending on the situation), officers must submit an affidavit that describes the "dangerous" individual (this is a technical term; see page 6 for the definition).
 - b. Petitioners must also provide detailed information about the type, number, and location of the firearm(s).
- A circuit or superior court hearing is held within 14 days following the firearm removal to determine if the law enforcement agency seeking the warrant may continue to hold the firearms or if they must be returned to the individual.
 - c. If the judge rules that the firearms must be returned, law enforcement officers will return all removed firearms (within 5 days) and that individual's ability to purchase firearms will be restored.
 - d. If the judge rules that the firearm removal was justified, they issue a risk warrant, and police retain custody of the weapons and report the individual to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to prevent them from purchasing additional firearms while subject to the order. The court must also order the individual not to possess firearms while the order is in effect.
- If the judge grants the order, the respondent may petition the court every 180 days to have their firearms returned and purchasing prohibition removed from NICS.

Circumstances That Allow for Warrantless Seizure

For a law enforcement officer to remove an individual's firearms without first obtaining a warrant, the officer must believe that the person in possession of the firearm(s) is dangerous.

The officer may either:

- a. Obtain valid consent to seize the firearm from a person with apparent or actual authority to give it; or
- b. Seize the firearm located in plain view after a proper warrantless entry into the premises based on consent or exigent circumstances, such as protection of persons.

After removing the firearm(s), the law enforcement officer must submit an affidavit describing the basis for their dangerousness claim within 48 hours. If the court determines that probable cause exists to believe the subject is dangerous, the court must order the law enforcement agency in custody of the firearm to retain it until the court can conduct a hearing on the matter.

Definition of "Dangerous" Individual Under the Law

Under the JLL, a "dangerous" individual is defined as someone who:10

- a. Poses an imminent risk of personal injury to themselves or others; OR
- b. It is probable that the individual will present a risk of personal injury to themselves or others in the future, AND either:
 - Has a mental illness that may be controlled by medication, and has not demonstrated a pattern of voluntarily and consistently taking medication while not under supervision; or
 - ii. There is a reasonable belief, based on documented evidence, that the respondent has a propensity for violent or suicidal conduct.

If a court finds that a person is dangerous under this definition, they will determine during the hearing whether the individual should be referred to further proceedings to consider an involuntary detention or commitment, depending on their situation.



FAQs Regarding the Jake Laird Law



What do the terms "respondent" and "petitioner" mean in this context? Individuals (law enforcement officers) that file for a risk warrant with the court under the JLL are referred to as petitioners, and the person in crisis is referred to as the respondent.



Who may petition for a risk warrant?

Law enforcement officers.



Is there a fee to file a petition?

No.



Can the JLL be utilized 24/7?

Yes, most counties in Indiana provide 24/7 access to judicial review for non-routine warrants. Law enforcement officers are also permitted to seize firearms 24/7 when appropriate without a warrant and submit an affidavit of probable cause to a court for review within 48 hours.



Which court hears the petitions?

Circuit or Superior Court.



What is the burden of proof for order issuance?

For the initial warrant, the petitioner must show probable cause that the respondent is a physical risk to themselves or others. For the risk warrant itself to be ordered, clear and convincing evidence is required, and the order can only be issued after the respondent is issued notice and a hearing is held.



What exactly must be proven in court?

That the respondent is a "dangerous" individual as defined in state law (see page 6).



How long is the order in effect?

180 days, after which point the order can be terminated or renewed.





Are JLL case court records confidential?

Generally, while the order is in effect and the individual has been adjudicated as "dangerous," JLL case records <u>may be available</u>¹¹ to the public, as per the <u>Indiana Rules on Access to Court Records.</u>¹² The court is also authorized to keep JLL cases confidential or unavailable via remote access as they deem necessary.

As of July 1, 2025, the <u>court is required</u>¹³ to seal and expunge the respondent's JLL records if they are not found dangerous in the initial proceedings. In this instance, the records may still be available to a law enforcement officer working in an official capacity. Also as of July 1, 2025, the court may seal and expunge JLL records from someone who was subject to the JLL but was subsequently adjudicated as no longer "dangerous." These records are available to law enforcement working in an official capacity. If someone was previously the respondent in a JLL case and adjudicated prior to July 1, 2025, as being no longer "dangerous," they also have the opportunity to file a motion to have the records sealed and expunged.



What happens if the court finds no probable cause for the order?

The law enforcement agency must return the removed firearms as soon as practicable, but not later than five days after the hearing.



What is the process for firearm dispossession if the court orders such?

Risk warrants authorize law enforcement to search for and remove firearms directly. Note, however, that while law enforcement may remove firearms without a risk warrant, they may not search for firearms if a warrant would otherwise be required in that situation.

If the court has ordered a law enforcement agency to retain a person's firearm, the respondent, or the rightful owner of the firearm, may petition the court for an order to transfer their firearm(s) to a responsible third party, who must be an individual who possesses a valid federal firearms license for storage or lawful sale. Law enforcement is also authorized to sell the firearm at auction and return the proceeds to the individual or the rightful owner of the firearm. However, this is not the preferred approach, as it allows for firearms to flow back into the community and threatens the public's safety.



What assurances are there that removed firearm(s) will be properly accounted for?

The court will provide the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration with a list and description of all items removed from the respondent for appropriate firearm return (or destruction) when the order expires. The law enforcement agency holding the firearm is required by law to use reasonable care to ensure that the firearm is not lost or damaged while in their custody. The law enforcement agency is liable for any damage or loss to an individual's firearms resulting from the agency's negligence in storage or handling of those firearms.





What does it mean for a respondent's firearms to be removed?

Beyond being dispossessed of their firearms, the respondent shall also be prohibited from purchasing, renting, receiving transfer of, or otherwise owning or possessing a firearm, and any license to carry a handgun shall be suspended until the order is lifted.



What happens if the respondent does not comply with the order?

Despite risk warrants being civil proceedings, respondents may be charged with a class A misdemeanor crime for possessing a firearm if they fail to comply with the order.



What happens if a third party provides the respondent with a firearm anyway?

This behavior would constitute unlawful transfer of a firearm to a dangerous individual. This is legally defined as a person knowingly or intentionally renting, transferring, selling, or offering to sell a firearm to another person who the individual knows was found dangerous by the court. If a third party engages in this unlawful transfer, they can be charged with a level 5 felony.



What do I need to know about the restoration of rights (a.k.a. "no longer dangerous")?

After 180 days following the issuance of the risk warrant, the respondent may petition the court for a "no longer dangerous" finding. If the petition is filed within a year of the original ruling, the respondent must prove by a preponderance of evidence that they are no longer dangerous.

If the petition is filed after a year since the original ruling, the state must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent is still dangerous to themselves or others. Once the respondent has been deemed by the court to no longer be dangerous, their firearms and ability to purchase firearms are restored to them within five days.



How is a risk warrant entered into the FBI's background check system?

When an order has been entered, this information should be shared with the FBI's <u>National Instant Background Check System (NICS)</u> as well as, where appropriate, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).



Is the Jake Laird Law constitutional?

In 2013, the constitutionality of the law was challenged in court. The Indiana Court of Appeals rejected the challenge <u>finding that the statute did not violate the Indiana Constitution</u> (Article 1, Section 32; Article 1, Section 21) or the fifth amendment to the United States Constitution.¹⁴



Visualization of JLL Components

Indiana's Risk Warrant/Jake Laird Law EFFECTIVE: JULY 1, 2005

Order Type	Max Duration	Burden of Proof	Factors to Consider	Petitioners
Ex Parte Order Emergency order, if applicable	14 days	Probable cause	Risk of injury to self or othersPropensity for violence or	Law
Final Order	Until terminated by the court	Clear and convincing	emotional instability • Mental illness that is not being treated	enforcement

Instructions for Reporting the Order

If the court orders the person's license to carry a handgun suspended, the court must notify the <u>Indiana State Police Firearms Section</u>, <u>Records Division</u> at 317-232-8264 or via email at <u>FirearmsQuestions@isp.IN.gov</u>. The originating agency/court should also ensure that entry for disqualification for firearm purchasing is submitted through the <u>Indiana Data and Communications System (IDACS)</u> into the NICS/NCIC indices.



Similar Laws & When to Use Them

Jake Laird Law vs. Domestic Violence Orders for Protection

In Indiana, a <u>Domestic Violence Order for Protection</u> is a civil order issued by a judge that provides various forms of relief from abuse to a victim of domestic violence, where the respondent presents a credible threat to the safety of a petitioner or a member of the petitioner's household.¹⁵ <u>An order for protection specifies various forms of relief</u> that will be provided to the survivor(s), including but not limited to: ordering the respondent to stay away from any petitioner and designated family or household member, granting possession of a residence to the petitioner, awarding temporary child custody, and ordering the respondent to refrain from purchasing or possessing firearms or deadly weapons for the duration of the order.¹⁶

When working with a survivor to determine whether they want/need a risk warrant under the JLL or a DV Order for Protection, professionals and advocates must consider the specific circumstances of the survivor's situation to determine what safety would look like for them and what kind of protection orders are appropriate.

Regardless of whether they seek protection via the Jake Laird Law, survivors should always be connected to a local domestic violence advocate to help them with their safety plan.

Additional resources for domestic violence survivors in Indiana can be found here. 17

Jake Laird Law vs. Commitment Orders

A commitment describes the legal status of a person receiving mental health care. It also describes the legal process in which a court issues an order for mental health care. This order is known as a commitment order. The order will specify if the individual is committed to inpatient or outpatient psychiatric care. More commonly, if the court is involved, the commitment will involve involuntary, inpatient care.

Patients who have been involuntarily committed have the same basic rights as voluntary patients, including confidentiality, humane care and treatment, freedom from harm, etc. They cannot, however, leave the facility whenever they want, nor can they refuse court-ordered treatments—including medications—without court authorization.

Commitment orders are to be used when an individual is mentally ill or potentially mentally ill and in immediate need of hospitalization and treatment. Commitment orders do not specifically address firearm possession and ownership besides being prohibitory while committed, and risk warrants under the JLL do not specifically address the mental health treatment of individuals in crisis.



Evidence for the Effectiveness of ERPOs & ERPO-Style Laws

How ERPO-Style Laws Reduce Gun Violence

Reducing Firearms Access

<u>Firearms access increases the risk</u> of homicide, suicide, and unintentional injuries.¹⁹ The JLL process and issuance of risk warrants address firearms access by those who are at increased risk of violence toward self or others.



Access to a gun in the home increases the odds of suicide <u>more than threefold.</u>²⁰ Placing time and space between at-risk individuals and firearms is a crucial suicide prevention strategy. Firearms are particularly dangerous tools when someone is at risk for suicide because they are the most lethal suicide attempt method, with <u>90%</u> of firearm suicide attempts ending in death.²¹

Means Substitution

Many people ask: If we remove firearms from an individual who is suicidal, won't they just find other means?

Research shows that <u>few people substitute</u> a different method for suicide if their preferred method is not available.²² Additionally, even if a person attempts suicide using other means, they are much more likely to survive their attempt because <u>other methods are far less lethal</u> and may provide more opportunity for a change of mind or rescue as compared to attempts by firearm.²³



It's also important to note that <u>90% of people who attempt suicide</u> do not go on to die by suicide, emphasizing the importance of restricting access to the most lethal means, which are firearms.²⁴



Scientific Publications & Findings

General Findings

- ERPOs and ERPO-style laws are most frequently used for <u>cases</u> of suicidal ideation.²⁵
 - o ERPO laws may play a role in preventing mass shootings as well.²⁶
- Most respondents to ERPOs are male.²⁷
- There is significant county-level variation in implementation and use.²⁸
- Research from four ERPO states estimates that one life is saved per every 17–23 ERPOs issued and served.²⁹

Indiana-Specific Findings

- Researchers studied the <u>state-level impact</u> of Indiana's and Connecticut's extreme risk laws on suicides from 1981–2015.³⁰ Indiana's extreme risk law was associated with an estimated 7.5% reduction in firearm suicides, and Connecticut's extreme risk law was associated with an estimated 13.7% reduction in firearm suicides.
 - o The researchers concluded that extreme risk laws were linked to promising reductions in firearm suicides in both Indiana and Connecticut.
- Researchers studied <u>Indiana's extreme risk law from 2006–2013</u> and found that 395 firearm removal orders were issued, and 1,079 firearms were temporarily removed.³¹ Suicidal ideation was cited as a reason for issuing the order in nearly 70% of these cases, and homicidal ideation was cited in 21% of the cases.
 - o The majority of cases involved white men with suicidal ideation where police removed more than one firearm.
 - o People in Indiana subject to orders had an annual suicide rate 31 times higher than the general population, showing the increased risk among this population.



Indiana's extreme risk law was associated with an estimated 7.5% reduction in firearm suicides.



JLL Case Studies

In May of 2023, the Lebanon, Indiana, Police Department was called to the home of a man that was reportedly making suicidal comments with a gun in his hand, including calling his workplace and threatening to kill himself. Once on the scene, the officers stated that the man disclosed that he wanted to kill himself, thought of killing himself every day, and had considered different means by which to carry this out. When asked about firearm access, the man said he had one firearm and told the officers where to find it. The officers secured one firearm and 596 rounds of ammunition before taking the man to the hospital for involuntary psychiatric treatment.

• See the appendix for a redacted version of the petition made in this case.

In July of 2020, a middle-aged man in Bartholomew County, Indiana became acutely suicidal and his wife called the Sheriff's Office.³² The man in crisis owned and kept several guns inside his home and allegedly told his wife to shoot him. She also claimed that he drew his gun at others who carried firearms so that they might shoot him. Using this information, the County Sheriff petitioned for a risk warrant from the court and when granted, deputies removed 20 firearms from the man's residence and transported him to a nearby hospital. Ultimately, no one was hurt.

In April of 2023, the Montgomery County, Indiana, Sheriff's Department removed two handguns, four shotguns, five rifles, and ammunition from a man involved in a domestic dispute, and submitted an affidavit of dangerousness following the seizure, in accordance with Indiana's JLL.³³ The man had waved around a handgun and was in possession of another handgun and a shotgun while yelling and cursing at his fiancée's daughter and another individual outside of the man's home. The court ordered the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department to retain the man's firearms, which they were able to do safely and successfully.

For more information about the public health research and the evidence for effectiveness that underpins extreme risk laws (like JLL), see this document.³⁴



Additional Resources

- The <u>National ERPO Resource Center (ERC)</u> at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions, the national training and technical assistance (TTA) provider for ERPO implementers
 - ERPO.org is a resource for professionals, policymakers, and the public to both learn about their state's ERPO law and help improve its implementation. See the Indiana page of the website for state-specific information. As a note, Hopkins fields training and technical assistance (TTA) requests directly through the site.
 - For more information about how the ERC helps meet the training needs of ERPO implementers, including law enforcement, see this one-pager.
- Implementing Extreme Risk Protection Orders: A Tool to Save Lives
 - Gun violence experts Dr. Shannon Frattaroli, Josh Horwitz, and Renee Hopkins discuss the implementation and adoption of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) laws which ask a court to prevent a person who is at risk of violence to self (including suicide) or to others from purchasing or possessing firearms.
- <u>Extreme Risk Protection Order Model Policy Guide</u> by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions
 - This guide is designed to inform advocates and policymakers about important elements to include in evidence-informed public health policy around ERPOs. The purpose is to ensure that in every state, the essential legal and structural elements are in place to improve the life-saving potential of ERPOs.
- <u>"It's tempting to say gun violence is about mental illness. The truth is much more complex."</u> from the Association of American Medical Colleges
 - Experts argue that the false notion that mental illness is the cause of mass shootings diverts attention from the larger problem of gun violence in the U.S. It also distracts people from the real issue when it comes to guns and mental health: suicide by firearm.
- Promising Approaches for Implementing Extreme Risk Laws: A Guide for Practitioners and Policymakers from the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions
 - A guide featuring the best available practices for effective implementation of ERPO laws. These
 recommendations were informed by conversations with pioneers in ERPO implementation, in
 addition to the best practices shared at a December 2022 convening of ERPO leaders from
 around the country.
- <u>Side-by-Side Comparison of Extreme Risk and Domestic Violence Protection Orders</u> from the National ERPO Resource Center
 - This side-by-side chart compares and contrasts ERPOs and DVPOs, both of which are valuable and important tools for saving lives. Implementers must understand the differences in these tools to determine the best course of action to reduce firearm violence.
- Indiana State Police resources on the Jake Laird Law
 - · Quick reference guide from the Indiana State Police



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Appendix

Appendix A - Detailed Risk Warrant Process WITH a Warrant

FILE A SEARCH WARRANT AFFIDAVIT

Law enforcement files an affidavit describing why they believe the respondent is dangerous and in possession of a firearm.

COURT ASSESSES SEARCH WARRANT AFFIDAVIT

Court determines whether there is probable cause to believe the respondent is dangerous and in possession of a firearm.

SERVE THE SEARCH WARRANT AND SEIZE FIREARMS

If a search warrant is issued, law enforcement searches for and removes any firearms in the respondent's possession and files a search warrant return with the court describing the quantity and type of each firearm seized from the respondent.

COURT SCHEDULES HEARING AND PROVIDES NOTICE

The court will provide the respondent with notice of the upcoming hearing to determine whether to return or retain firearms.

PROCEED WITH FINAL HEARING

Within 14 days after the search warrant return is filed, the court conducts a hearing to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence to prove the respondent is dangerous.

BURDEN OF PROOF IS MET

The court issues a written order finding the individual is dangerous, ordering law enforcement to retain any removed firearms, ordering the respondent's license to carry a handgun, if applicable, suspended, and prohibiting the respondent from renting, receiving transfer of, owning, or possessing a firearm.

(The court also determines whether to refer the respondent to further proceedings to consider whether to involuntarily detain or commit the respondent.)

BURDEN OF PROOF IS NOT

MET

The court issues a written order stating that the individual is not dangerous and the law enforcement agency in custody of the individual's firearms returns

Authorized petitioners/complainants in Indiana include:

· Law enforcement

the firearms.

· Circuit or Superior Court

Order continuance or termination

TERMINATE OR RENEW ORDER

A respondent may, beginning 180 days after the courts' order to retain firearms, petition the court for a finding the respondent is no longer dangerous.

RETURN FIREARMS

Within 5 days of the termination of an order, law enforcement returns any removed firearms to the respondent.

UPDATE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

The court clerk transmits the order of the court to the IN Office of Judi cial Administration for transmission to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).



Appendix B - Detailed Risk Warrant Process WITHOUT a Warrant

WARRANTLESS REMOVAL OF FIREARMS

A law enforcement officer conducts a warrantless removal of an individual's firearms upon establishing the individual is dangerous to self or others.

FILE AN AFFIDAVIT AND SEARCH WARRANT RETURN

Law enforcement officer files an affidavit with the court describing the basis for the law enforcement officer's belief that the respondent is dangerous.

Law enforcement files a search warrant return with the court setting forth the quantity and type of each firearm removed from the respondent.

COURT ASSESSES THE AFFIDAVIT

The court reviews the affidavit to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the respondent is dangerous.

BURDEN OF PROOF IS MET

The court orders law enforcement to retain custody of any removed firearms.

BURDEN OF PROOF IS NOT MET

If probable cause does not exist, the court orders the return of the firearm(s) to the respondent.

PROCEED WITH FINAL HEARING

Within 14 days after the search warrant return is filed, the court conducts a hearing to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence to prove the respondent is dangerous.

UPDATE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

The court clerk transmits the order of the court to the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration for transmission to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

BURDEN OF PROOF IS MET

The court issues a written order finding the individual is dangerous, ordering law enforcement to retain any removed firearms, ordering the respondent's license to carry a handgun, if applicable, suspended, and prohibiting the respondent from renting, receiving transfer of, owning, or possessing a firearm.

(The court also determines whether to refer the respondent to further proceedings to consider whether to involuntarily detain or commit the respondent.)

BURDEN OF PROOF IS NOT MET

The court issues a written order stating that the individual is not dangerous and the law enforcement agency in custody of the individual's firearms must return the firearms.

Order continuance or termination

TERMINATE OR RENEW ORDER

A respondent may, beginning 180 days after the courts' order to retain firearms, petition the court for a finding the respondent is no longer dangerous.

UPDATE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

The court clerk transmits the order of the court to the Indiana Office of Judicial Administration for transmission to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

RETURN FIREARMS

Within 5 days of the termination of an order, law enforcement returns any removed firearms to the respondent.



Appendix C - Redacted Sample Petition (2023 case in Lebanon, IN)

CASE NUMBER: 06D01-2305-RF FILED: 5/24/2023

Lebanon Police Department

Incident Report

201 East Main Street Lebanon, IN 46052

Supplements

Phone: (705) 482 - 8836 Fax: (765) 482 - 8837

County Venue Report# IN0060100 23-LPD Boone LEBANON Lebanon Police Report Date / Time Occurrence Date /Time File Class

05/23/2023 13:58 Hrs 05/23/2023 14:41 Hrs (US/Eastern)

Incident Report Type(s) / Nature of Incident Approved Report (1)

Incident Report

Summary

Suicidal subject

Incident Location

Address City State ZIP Country

Sorrell Court Lebanon Indiana 46052 Clery Location

Township of Occurrence County:

Center Township Boone

Latitude Longitude Sub-Beat Beat

40.058792 -86.457701

Officers Involved

Role Name Agency Supp# Captair T . N (#45) 0 Assisting Lebanon Police Department 0 Assisting Patrolman E.T (#62) Lebanon Police Department 0 Assisting Patrolman J.B (#56) Lebanon Police Department 0 Patrolman T.W (#68) Assisting Lebanon Police Department 0 Patrolman G.P (#70) Lebanon Police Department Reporting

Incident People

Supp # Roles 0 Suspect / Offender

Title Date of Birth Name

S.T (Primary Name)

 Π # Race Sex Age at Occurrence

White 66 Years Old (Indiana)

Cellular (Date of Info: 08/2W2Q22)

I- Cellular (Date of Info: 08/29/2022)

Address

SORRELL Court LEBANON INDIANA (Date of Info 09/02/2020)

Hair Length Skin Height Weight Hair 604 196 Brown Light Eye Color Build Facial Hair Date of Info Medium 08/20/2021 Brown



CASE NUMBER: 06D01-2305-RF- FILED: 5/24/2023

23 LPD Lebanon Police Department

Incident Narratives

Original Narrative

Author: Date Created: Supp#
Patrolman G.P #70 05/23/2023 1641 Hrs 0

Narrative:

On 05/23/2023, at approximately 1:58 pm, L Officer G.P of the Lebanon Police Department (LPD), responded to a call of a suicidal subject at Sorrell Court in Lebanon, Indiana. 46052. Dispatch advised that they received a call stating that S.T (had a gun in is hand and was making suicidal comments

Before going to the residence I attempted to call S.T and he did not answer At the residence, I and assisting Lebanon officers approached the residence and noticed the front door to be open. I knocked on the front door screendoor and S.T answered. I requested that S.T exit the residence and speak with me outside, which he did Whilestanding outside he stated that he knew we were at the residence because he called his employer today makingsuicidal comments. He stated that he wants to kill himself, and he thinks of killing himself every day. When weasked him what means he would commit suicide by he said by firearm, a high dose of insulin, or by starting his car in the garage and staying inside it. S.T was asked if there were any firearms in the home, and he said that there were. S.T was asked if he would be OK with us entering the residence and secure the firearm, to which he stated yes. S.T said that the firearm would be located in the far back bedroom closet, inside a green backpack I entered the residence and found the firearm where S.T said it would be located I made sure that the firearm was holster with no magazine inside it and that the slide was locked back. The firearm did not have a magazine inside or a bullet m the chamber. Later the firearm was taken out of the residence and placed m our custody to further investigate a Jake Laird seizure. I exited the residence and explained to S.T that we would be transporting him toSt. Vincent's Hospital for Immediate Detention (LD.). When I told S.T that we would be taking him, he began to become angry. He stated that he would not be going and that any other time that officers have been to his residence they have not taken him. During our conversation S.T received a call from the Human Resource department at his job S.T became very loud and irate while on the phone and stated that he said to never have the police come to his house if he made any kind of comments that would raise concern. S.T was asked multiple times to stand up and walk to my police vehicle, and he ignored the requests several times. S.T eventually stood up and walked to my fully marked police vehicle, where I placed S.T in handcuffs I checked the handcuffs for proper fit and double-locked them. I placed S.T in the passenger seat of my vehicle where he was feeling a lot of discomfort. He said that he has had multiple back surgeries and was in pain m my vehicle. I requested that dispatch started medics to my location to help with transporting him to St. Vincent's.

When medics arrived I placed a second pair of handcuffs on S.T for his comfort. I checked both handcuffs for proper fit and double-locked them S.T was placed the back of the ambulance and the handcuffs were placed on the railing of the bed. While S.T was getting placed into the ambulance Officer J.B (LPD) filled out the I.D. paperwork, which is attached to this report. Medics transported S.T to St. Vincent's Hospital along with Officer R (LPD) and I followed them there. While traveling to St. Vincent's S.T made several homicidal comments that Officer R overheard. Officer R stated that S.T spoke the entire trip to the hospital and while he was speaking he again became irate and very angry. S.T stated that he was upset with certain individuals and that he wanted to kill them S.T also stated that he would tell people that he w as going to killthem and wanted to see then reaction S.T also made a comment about hitting someone in the head with a baseball bat. S.T was

released to St. Vincent's staff with no further incident.

Below is a list of items taken from the home:



- One green military-style backpack containing, one set of ear protection, one gun lock, two empty magazines, 2 magazines with 8 rounds each, 1 set of eye protection, 1 black holster, 400 rounds of Sig Sauer Full Metal Jacket rounds, 180 rounds of Magtech hollow point rounds.
- Also, located inside the backpack One black Smith & Wesson Shield, caliber .380, bearing serial number NDF1298.

Scene Processing:

None

Additional Leads to be Investigated:

No other leads available.

NCIC or IDACS Entries:

None

911 Call?

Yes

Attachments: Case Report: Yes Other Reports: Yes

Mental/Plrysical Examinations: Yes

Recommended Charges:

None at this time. Information only.

Signed:

Reviewed: Captain T.N #45



CASE NUMBER: 06D01-2305-RF- FILED: 5/24/2023

23 LPd Lebanon Police Department

STATE OF INDIANA)	IN THE BOONE SUPERIOR/CIRCUIT COURT
COUNTY OF BOONE) SS:)	CAUSE NUMBER. 06
IN DE. THE MATTED OF	,	
IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE RETENTION OF)	
FIREARMS SEIZED)	
PURSUANT TO)	
I.C. 35-47-14	,	
(AGENCY CASE: 23-LPD-	-)	

AFFIDAVIT FOR RETENTION OF FIREARMS SEIZED FROM A DANGEROUS PERSON PURSUANT TO I.C. 35-47-14-3

Comes now, Officer G.P who hereby affirms under the pains

and penalties for perjury, swears upon his oath, deposes and says: 1. I am a law enforcement officer with the Lebanon Police Department. I have been aPolice Officer m Boone County since August 31st, 2022, and a Police Officer in the Stateof Indiana since August 31st, 2022. I am a "law enforcement officer" as that term is defined in I.C. 35-31.5-2-185. In connection with my official duties, I am

involved ininvestigations relating to dangerous persons as defined m I.C. 35-47-14-1. 2.

The information that is referenced below and set forth m the documents attached to this Affidavit is either information known personally to me. information that I obtained from other law enforcement sources, information obtained from

public records, or information from a source otherwise identified within these documents. 3.

On 05/23/2023, an investigation involving a dangerous person in possession of firearms was commenced and documented under case report number 23-LPD- A copy ofthat report is attached as a supporting document and incorporated here by reference. 4. As a result of this investigation firearms, ammunition, and/or firearms accessories were seized from Sorrell Court Lebanon, Indiana, 46052 by the Lebanon PoliceDepartment.

A list of those items seized is attached to this

Affidavit as a supportingdocument and incorporated here by reference. 5. As supported by the information contained within the attached documents, this affiant has probable cause to believe that S.T (

is a dangerous person, as defined in I.C. 35-47-14-1. I hereby affirm under the pains and penalties for perjury that

the forgoing is true to the best ofmy knowledge and belief. 05/23/2023 G.P Date

Signature of Affiant

