

FIREARMS FACTS

An intimate partner's access to firearms is a significant risk factor in domestic violence fatalities.

Firearms are the most commonly used weapon in intimate partner homicides.*

Intimate partner assaults involving firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.

From 2003-2008, 65 women were killed in Oregon by an intimate partner, of which 60% were firearm fatalities.

**Other weapons are also used in domestic violence homicides.*

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Domestic Violence Resources

24-Hour Hotlines and Resources for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Assistance:

Portland Women's Crisis Line (statewide):
888.235.5333

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
800.799.7233 (English and Spanish); TDD 800.787.3224

Local Program:

To report a federal gun law violation: call the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at 503.331.7820.

For information and assistance with your rights as a crime victim:
www.oregoncrimevictimsrights.org

For a directory of legal aid programs and for other legal information:
www.oregonlawhelp.org or
www.ojd.state.or.us/familylaw

Note: It is important to use a computer your abuser does not have access to because you cannot completely erase all trace of the sites you visit.

Domestic Violence & Guns

Steps you can take if you are afraid your partner will use a firearm against you.



Prepared by: Oregon Firearms and Domestic Violence Task Force

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Are you concerned about your safety?

- Is your intimate partner physically abusing or threatening to abuse you?
- Does your partner have a gun? Has your partner threatened to get a gun?
- Does your partner have a history of using guns to threaten you or others?
- Has your partner ever threatened to commit suicide or threatened to hurt or kill you or your family members?
- Would you feel safer if a court orders that your partner cannot have a gun as part of a restraining order?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, read further to find out what you can do to increase your safety.

What can I do to help protect myself?

Safety Planning

Safety planning means thinking of ways you can be safer and planning how you would respond to a dangerous situation. Part of your safety plan may involve getting a restraining order against your partner, with or without gun restrictions. Contact your local domestic violence program for help making a safety plan.

Restraining Orders

If you decide a restraining order will help make you safer, you can ask the court to forbid your abuser from having firearms or to make sure that your abuser gets rid of his/her guns by turning them over to the sheriff or another person. You must tell the court what steps you think will make you safest.

Crime Victim Rights

If your partner faces criminal charges for abusing you, you have rights as a crime victim to be reasonably protected from your partner and to have your voice heard during the criminal case. You can work with your local district attorney, a district attorney victim advocate, or a legal representative of your own choosing to help enforce these rights.

What laws can help keep guns away from my partner?

If you get a restraining order:

- A judge may order that your partner cannot have guns or that your partner must give his/her guns to someone else for storage.
- Federal law may make it illegal for your partner to buy or own guns or ammunition while you have a restraining order against him or her, if the order meets certain conditions. 18 USC § 922(g) (8).

If your partner has been charged with or convicted of a domestic violence crime:

- The court can make 'no guns' a condition of a release agreement or probation.
- Federal law may ban your partner from buying or having firearms or ammunition for life after being convicted of certain domestic violence crimes. 18 USC § 922(g)(9).

Report gun law violations to the police, sheriff or federal law enforcement (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms).