

Notice to Respondents of a Family Abuse Final Protective Order

- You are receiving this notification because you are the named respondent in a family abuse final protective order issued pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 16.1-279.1.
- Virginia law provides that it is a felony for an individual who is the respondent in a family abuse final protective order to possess firearms during the period of the protective order. (Va. Code Ann. §18.2-308.1:4)
 - “Firearm” means any weapon that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel single or multiple projectiles by the action of an explosion of a combustible material; or the frame or receiver of any such weapon. (Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-433.1)
- A violation of this law is a Class 6 felony, and a conviction for this crime may result in a prison sentence and permanent loss of firearms rights.
- Virginia law provides that you may possess a firearm during the first 24 hours following service of the final protective order if the purpose for possessing the firearm is to transfer or sell it to a person who is legally entitled to possess firearms.
- The Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office will offer storage options to you at the time they serve your order, or you may contact the Sheriff’s Office directly to coordinate transfer of any firearms to their storage facility. Call 703-246-4249 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and 703-246-4407 all other times.
- Please be aware that there are additional legal requirements and criminal penalties contained in Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-3.8.1:4 that regulate an individual’s ability to possess, purchase or transport firearms while they are the respondent in any protective order.
- **If you have questions about compliance with this law, please consult with an attorney.**



All services are provided regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Please call 703-324-9494 or TTY 703-324-5706 to request reasonable accommodations.