

# PROTECTION ORDERS AND FEDERAL FIREARMS PROHIBITIONS

Persons subject to a qualifying protection order under federal law are generally prohibited from possessing any firearm or ammunition in or affecting commerce (or shipping or transporting any firearm or ammunition in interstate or foreign commerce, or receiving any such firearm or ammunition). Violation of this prohibition while the order remains in effect is a federal offense punishable by up to ten years imprisonment. 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(8), 924(a)(2).

The following list enumerates the elements that define a qualifying protection order under the federal firearms prohibition. **Generally, a defendant/respondent subject to a protection order that includes one element (indicated by a diamond) from each section listed below is covered by the federal firearms prohibition.**

## I. HEARING

- ❖ Defendant/Respondent received **actual notice** and had an **opportunity to participate**.

## II. INTIMATE PARTNER

Plaintiff/Petitioner is an **intimate partner** of the Defendant/Respondent, (18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(32)) that is:

- ❖ a **spouse** of Defendant/Respondent;
- ❖ a **former spouse** of Defendant/Respondent;
- ❖ an individual who is a **parent** of a child of Defendant/Respondent; **or**
- ❖ an individual who **cohabitates or has cohabited** with Defendant/Respondent.

## III. RESTRAINS FUTURE CONDUCT

- ❖ The order **restrains** Defendant/Respondent from **harassing, stalking, or threatening** the intimate partner, child of the Defendant/Respondent, or child of the Defendant/Respondent's intimate partner; **or**
- ❖ The order **restrains** Defendant/Respondent from engaging in other conduct that would place the intimate partner in **reasonable fear of bodily injury** to the partner or child.

## IV. CREDIBLE THREAT OR PHYSICAL FORCE

- ❖ The order includes a finding that Defendant/Respondent is a **credible threat** to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child; **or**
- ❖ The order, by its terms, explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of **physical force** against the intimate partner or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury.

**For further information about firearms prohibitions or section 922(g)(8), contact your local Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms by calling (800) 800-3855. For general information about protection orders and firearms, contact the Full Faith and Credit Project at (800) 256-5883.**