

## 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.*

*Preparation of this document was supported by the Oregon Department of Justice through a VAWA STOP Grant. Grant applicant: OSP/LEDS*

## 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](http://www.oregoncrimevictimsrights.org)

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

March 2010

## 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).**