

Appendix 1: Interview Guide

The interview guide had three sections: (1) events preceding the ERPO; (2) the filing and court process; and (3) experiences of the respondent and petitioner after the ERPO was filed. The codebook was iteratively developed initially using these three themes as well as barriers and facilitators, understanding of the process, implications of the ERPO, and overall perceptions of the effectiveness of the ERPO and then expanded through a collaborative coding and discussion process. The final codebook had a definition of each parent and child code, as well as example quotations.¹

1. Guest G, Bunce A, Johnson L. How Many Interviews Are Enough?: An Experiment with Data Saturation and Variability. *Field methods*. 2006;18(1):59-82.
doi:10.1177/1525822X05279903

Box 1. Themes and Associated Quotes

Perceived Lack of Service Connection

“Well, it's a big systemic issue. It's dealing with mental health issues and all sorts of areas...you know? And we don't direct enough resources in that, you know, to assist with this. Cause typically the mental health people are the people who are homeless or their families have abandoned them or whatever mental health people were. Where do you put them?...part of the problem when you're mentally ill, you don't think you need help.”

-Participant 12

“Like I said, the part that I didn't like was having to be in an adversarial position when it was severe mental health issue that he needed help with. And even now, it's like, you know, because we ended up having to file other charges against him in order to get him the help, even now--well, not now, but recently he would say, “[frustrated sigh] You know, now I have these charges I have to deal with, because you guys did this.” Now, he's past that and he's okay with it. But at some point, you know, he's gonna have to go back and have those taken off his record, so, that every time he applies for a job, he doesn't have to explain this is what happened. So, that's what's difficult. And then he got charged fines where he didn't have any money and so [laughs], it ended up with all of this whole process, you know, the penalties against him that he had to endure in order to get mental health services, that wasn't fair.”

-Participant 4

Confusion Regarding the Process

“You're very alone in the process...I'm not used to this sort of a process and I think, you know, people who run in and out of courthouses understand that, you know, there's not a lot of communication. There's not a lot of people you can ask questions to...that's the role of an attorney, but even then...it's not like the attorney, they either know it or they don't, there's not a

lot of resources to get you through the process. And that may just be the way it is, but...it's kind of a black box process. Once you turn stuff in, you're done until it's your turn to have it come to the top of the pile again...so it's not interactive in any way, shape or form.”

-Participant 10

“The overall experience, the first word that comes to mind is "frustrating." It was not a user-friendly process. It seemed made for--maybe it was made for police officers who regularly commute and appear in a courtroom here and there.”

-Participant 6

Petitioner Distress

“...anything is scary when you're filling out these orders and filing a case. And then like...the things that I had to tell to the judge were some pretty traumatic memories that I can talk about now, but at the time, it was just--I was still processing this and so that was a little stressful.”

-Participant 2

“...that whole time was...pretty stressful. Like I said, um, she had been involuntarily committed into the hospital several times, um, which affected, um, you know, the kids. So we have four kids and, uh, you know, it's stressful on them too, even if they don't know all of what's going on, you know, just to know that, you know, mom can't be home and, you know, dad's still trying to work and that--just a stressful time for the whole family.”

-Participant 7

Prior legal experience helps to navigate the judicial system

“... if I had never been to family law court, I would have had no confidence at all on even how to do this or what to do.”

-Participant 12

Advocates

“ I could imagine if there were some sort of community advocate...through the local police station. If there were someone from the courthouse who could reach out and kind of guide you through the process once you initiate the process. If there were maybe even a nonprofit that existed to help people file and successfully get their orders accomplished, you know. I can think of a lot of different kind of more neutral parties or just advocates somehow to help people navigate the waters of this kind of complex system, that would have been really helpful.”

- Participant 6

Simplifying the Administrative Process

“It might be, I don't know if there's a division that...strictly deals with gun rights and removals...I guess it was the first time I've heard of these forms. So I don't know if there's like a division to deal strictly with that, you know, maybe after the interaction and the paperwork has been filled out and stuff like that, even if it was like a, if you want to see how things stand or how many questions or want to find out what your rights are, call this number.”

- Participant 15

“And I know this would take so much money, but somebody that can walk somebody through the process, like if there's a way you can meet with the clerk and, and say, tell me what documentation I need to complete, what proof I need to have, you know...through the process. A public defender's office where you used to be able to years ago, you could go in and see somebody to help with situations when you couldn't afford an attorney or whatever. And I know they have some of those people, but they're very limited in what sorts of things they can help you with. And I get that at the clerk's office or whoever is going to be fearful that they can't be seen as giving legal advice because that's against the law...so there's all those challenges too...”

- Participant 2

“Overall, it felt just the total paper nature of filing was archaic and it seemed almost--like it wasn't a good steward using paper. It was not a steward of the valuable information that I was passing on to the court system. Just using paper, it seems like that could be destroyed; that could be, you know, soiled; that could be lost, you know. But if I had been able to file online, it would have been secure. It would have been saved immediately. And many more people would have been able to access it and I would have filed it much sooner than I did and the process would have been complete much sooner than it was.”

- Participant 6