Supreme Court of Vermont
Office of State Court Administrator

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TO: Senate and House Committees on Judiciary

FROM: Teri Corsones, State Court Administrator

RE: Report of Act 87 (S.4), An Act Relating to Procedures Involving Firearms

DATE: October 23, 2026

I. LEGISLATION

Section 4 of Act 87 took effect on July 1, 2022 and provides:

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 4062 is added to read: ANNUAL REPORTING; OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

(a) On or before September 1, 2022 and annually thereafter, the Court Administrator, with the assistance of the Agency of Human Services, shall report data on the use of extreme risk protection orders during the previous year to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary.

(b) The reports required by this section shall include the following data for the previous year:

(1) the number of extreme risk protection order petitions filed and the

number of orders issued;

(2) geographical data indicating the county where the petition was filed; and

(3) follow-up information describing whether the order was renewed or terminated pursuant to section 4055 of this title and whether the subject of the order was charged with violating it under section 4058 of this title.

(c) The Agency of Human Services shall include in the reports required by this section an analysis of the impact of extreme risk prevention orders on Vermont suicide rates, including any relevant data relied on or utilized by the Agency for purposes of providing the information required by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 34, An act relating to evaluation of suicide profiles.

II. **REPORT**

This report is for extreme risk protection orders in fiscal year 2026. However, and as noted below, the Agency of Human Services does not have complete data on deaths by suicide for fiscal year 2026 at this time. This report will be resubmitted if the complete data on deaths by suicide changes the reported data or conclusions set forth in this report.

Numbers of Petitions and Orders.

Pursuant to (b)(1), a total of 28 extreme risk protection order petitions was filed in fiscal year 2026.

Pursuant to (b)(1), a total of 47 decisions on extreme risk protection order petitions was issued in fiscal year 2026. The reason for the higher number of orders than petitions is that most petitions have both a temporary and final order issued and some cases have multiple renewed temporary orders before a final order is issued. A breakdown of all the fiscal year 2026 orders is set forth below.

- 47 extreme risk protection orders in fiscal year 2026:
  - 26 temporary orders granted;
  - 13 final orders granted;[1]
  - 6 temporary orders denied; and
  - 2 final orders denied.

Geographic Information.

Pursuant to (b)(2), the 28 extreme risk protection order petitions from fiscal year 2026 were

[1] Please note: there were 3 additional final orders granted **after** the end of the fiscal year so they are not included in this report. They will be included in the fiscal year 2027 report.

filed in the following counties:

- 2 petitions in Addison;
- 2 petitions in Bennington;
- 0 petitions in Caledonia;
- 2 petitions in Chittenden;
- 0 petition in Essex;
- 1 petition in Franklin;
- 0 petitions in Grand Isle;
- 3 petitions in Lamoille;
- 1 petition in Orange;
- 9 petitions in Orleans;
- 2 petitions in Rutland;
- 2 petitions in Washington;
- 1 petition in Windham; and
- 3 petitions in Windsor.

Renewals, Terminations, and Violations.

Pursuant to (b)(3), no orders were renewed or terminated pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 4055. The Judiciary is not able to determine whether the subjects of the orders were charged with violating an order under 13 V.S.A. § 4058.

Agency of Human Services Observations.

Pursuant to (c), the Vermont Judiciary conferred with the Vermont Agency of Human Services on the impact of extreme risk protection orders on Vermont suicide rates. Although it is unknown whether extreme risk protection orders are impacting Vermont's overall suicide rate, the Agency of Human Services makes the following observations:

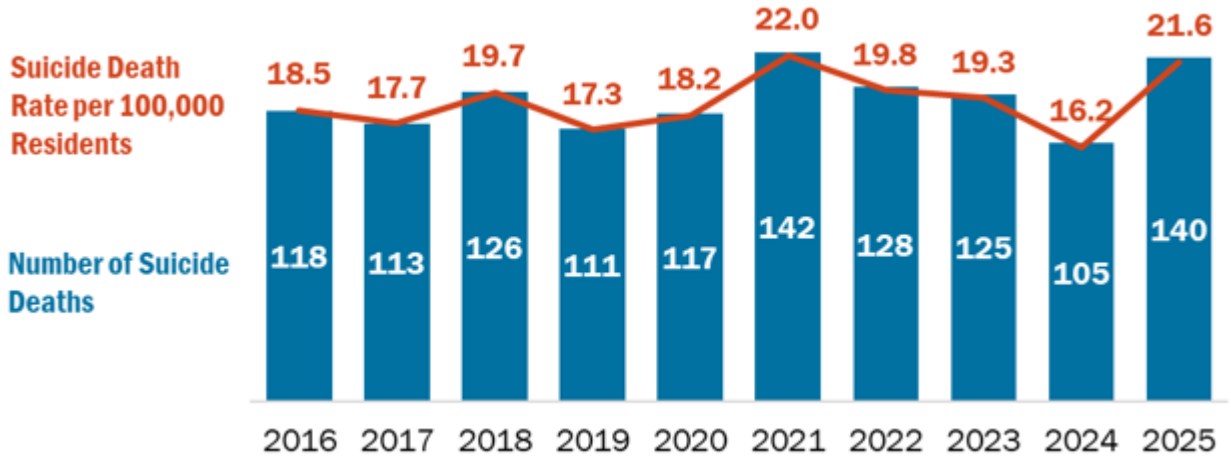
1. **Extreme Risk Protection Orders.** At the time of this report, data is available for deaths by suicide through fiscal year 2026, but there are still 3 pending death certificates that are subject to finalization. With the data currently available, 1 respondent to an extreme risk protection petition included in this report is known to have died by suicide.[2] The 1 person who died by suicide had been subject to a final ERPO, but it had expired at the time of their death. Overall, of the 28 petitions

[2] The Agency of Human Services made a recent change to the methodology for identifying suicide deaths. In previous years, deaths by suicide were defined as cases where the manner of death on the death certificate was listed as "Suicide." Moving forward, deaths by suicide will be defined as cases where the manner of death is listed as "Suicide" or the underlying cause of death is one of the following ICD-10 codes: X60-X84, Y87.0, or U03. More information about the ICD-10 codes is available through the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics website, available at: ICD-10-CM | Classification of Diseases, Functioning, and Disability | CDC.

filed in fiscal year 2026, 10 petitions had temporary and/or final orders granted where, according to the court's findings, the respondent had "threatened or attempted suicide or serious bodily harm." Because the temporary and final orders granting relief in connection with those 10 petitions resulted in firearms being removed from the respondent, it is possible that the extreme risk protection orders could have prevented those individuals from attempting suicide or serious bodily harm during the time that firearms were removed or firearm purchases were not permitted.

2. **Overall Suicide Rate in Vermont.** In Vermont, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death overall and the second leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 44.[3] Suicide death rates in Vermont are higher than the national average.[4] The current data indicates that 124 Vermonters died by suicide in fiscal year 2026. The Agency of Human Services will continue to monitor the impact of extreme risk protection petitions and orders on the overall rate of suicide.

Number and Rate of Deaths by Suicide Among Vermont Residents



Source: Vermont Vital Statistics, 2016-2025. 2025 data are preliminary and subject to change.

[3] Vermont Vital Statistics, 2024.

[4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Wonder, *available at* https://wonder.cdc.gov/.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about this report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Corsones, State Court Administrator

cc: Jeff Trites, MS, Public Health Analyst, Agency of Human Services