



COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SERVICE OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS SNAPSHOT

Understanding Protective Order Service

The **Cook County Sheriff's Office (CCSO)** is responsible for serving protective orders issued by the Cook County Circuit Court in an effort to ensure survivors of domestic violence have access to the legal protections they have been granted.



DID YOU KNOW?

The **Cook County Sheriff's Office** is one of the largest protective order service agencies in the United States by volume.

Few, if any, agencies handle the volume of protective orders processed by the **CCSO**.

Protective Orders are issued daily in county courthouses across America for service by agencies that are authorized to provide service.

WHY SOME ORDERS MAY GO UNSERVED

CCSO often faces challenges with protective orders going unserved due to difficulty locating individuals.



The individual against whom the order is issued (respondent) may have relocated, or may actively be evading or avoiding service.



Deputies depend on addresses given by the person seeking the order (petitioner), which may not always reflect the most current location information.



While deputies are able to use lawful databases and investigative tools, successful service depends on locating the respondent.



Civil Process service does not authorize forced entry-Deputies may only make contact when the respondent is accessible at the door and only if the respondent opens the door for service. The respondent can stand on the other side of the unopened door, and deputies cannot effectively serve them without direct contact.

Cook County Sheriff's Office deputies make **multiple attempts at service** which include **serving orders the same day** as granted by the court.

Our service outcomes must be understood in the context of both high volume of orders we receive and the significant resources we devote to maximizing successful service of Orders of Protection.



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This snapshot reflects the operational performance for the period between November 2025 through February 2026.

What is a same-day service attempt?

The **Sheriff's Civil Process Unit (CPU)** aims to attempt service on the same day an Order is issued by the judge. The unit also strives for two attempts within 24 hours and at least three attempts within 72 hours. We have found that the sooner we locate the respondent the better chance of successful service. As time goes on, they become harder to serve.

The **Civil Process Unit** made a total of 19,505 attempts to serve all orders received during this reporting period. Successfully served orders received an average of 2.55 attempts.

Not served orders received an **average of 4.82 attempts**



73%

Rate of Attempts for Same-Day Service

The **Cook County Sheriff's Office** has been making significant investments in solutions to increasing service attempts and successful service of order of protection including integration of technology, intelligence, and data-driven strategies that few, if any, counties across the United States have employed. The result is a service rate that reflects the significant efforts to close the gap between issuance and service of orders.



56.7%

Overall Service Rate

Orders successfully served as a percentage of all orders received for service from the Clerk



6,212

Total Orders Received by the Sheriff's Office for Service
19,505 service attempts made



2,560

Orders Served by the Sheriff's Office



963

Orders Served by Other Means*

*Service by other means includes service by Cook County Sheriff's Police Department and other law enforcement agencies using Short Form Notification service as well as Orders served in Court.

In 92.9% of the cases where an Order could not be served despite multiple attempts, the primary reason for a not served order was No Contact with the individual being served.

Service data is sourced from Sheriff's Office internal data systems based on records provided by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Agency Data Systems (LEADS) and the Cook County Clerk's Office data systems are the only systems intended to capture all orders served by other agencies.



SERVICE OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS SNAPSHOT

KARINA'S LAW
effective
May 11, 2025

Illinois law now allows for required surrender of firearms and recovery of firearms by law enforcement when ordered by a judge in connection with an Emergency Order of Protection. Karina's Law made changes to criminal and civil orders of protection to allow for more clarity when it comes to protective orders that mandate the recovery of a firearm.

The **Cook County Sheriff's Office** is proud to stand alongside the domestic violence advocacy community and Cook County stakeholders as we work together to provide support and protection to survivors of domestic violence.

Between May 11, 2025, and May 2, 2026:

844

Firearm surrender Orders Served by the Sheriff's Office of the 1,526 total surrender orders received

73

Total Firearms Recovered

2

Firearm seizure warrants executed by the Sheriff's Office of the 3 total seizure orders received

A **Firearm Surrender** is when CPU deputies request firearms from the respondent at the time of service of an order of protection and are provided those firearms by the respondent. A **Seizure (search) Warrant** for Firearms allows for forcible entry and searching of the area designated in the seizure warrant and is done by the agency ordered to do so by the Judge.



It is important to understand that an Order of Protection is a legal safeguard, not a physically barrier. Please stay alert to your surroundings and notify law enforcement immediately if you believe the respondent is nearby or attempting to find/locate you.

The Cook County Sheriff's Office is here to support you.



The Sheriff's Office **Victim Support Services Domestic Violence Liaisons** provide support to petitioners who have been granted an order of protection and help them understand the Sheriff's Civil Process procedure. The Victim Support Services Domestic Violence Liaisons are available by phone at **708-232-4545** from Monday to Saturday or by email at CCSO.Vssdvliason@ccsheriff.org.

The **Order of Protection Portal** is an online tool to check the status of your order of protection or provide information to the Sheriff's Office to help aid in the service of a protection order. The portal can be found at: <https://sheriffefile.ccsheriff.org/civilprocess>



If you are experiencing a life-threatening situation, please call 9-1-1.

Disclaimers: The data system used by the Sheriff's Office that tracks service of protection orders is only intended to track orders served by the Sheriff's Civil Process Unit. Therefore, there are an unknown number of orders served by other agencies that are likely to be categorized as "not served" in this report. LEADS and the Cook County Clerk's Office data systems are the only systems intended to capture all orders served by any agency.

About this data: The data on protection order service rates is collected and maintained by the Sheriff's Office of Data Science and Analytics on a quarterly basis. Questions can be directed to ccso@ccsheriff.org.