

**IMPERIAL COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
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From: District Attorney George Marquez  
RE: Court-Based Firearm Relinquishment Program  
Date: May 1, 2025

Imperial County, CA — The Imperial County District Attorney's Office and the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Imperial County Superior Court of California has launched a targeted firearm relinquishment program designed to improve enforcement of court-ordered firearm prohibitions and enhance community safety.

This local initiative is part of California's first-ever court-based firearm relinquishment program, established through the Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 178). The legislation allocated \$40 million in one-time funding to the Judicial Council of California to ensure the consistent and safe removal of firearms from individuals prohibited from possessing them due to court orders.

Recognizing the importance of this opportunity, the District Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office took a proactive approach by jointly writing and applying for the grant funding. After a statewide budget adjustment in 2024, \$1.2 million was awarded to support the program now underway in Imperial County.

Imperial County's implementation will initially focus on criminal protective orders and civil restraining order cases, where individuals subject to such orders are required by law to relinquish any firearms or ammunition in their possession. The law mandates that these individuals surrender their weapons to a licensed gun dealer or local law enforcement and provide proof of compliance to the court.

The partnership between the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, and the Superior Court allows for streamlined communication, better public guidance on how to properly relinquish firearms, and investigative follow-up when individuals are believed to be out of compliance.

The local program builds on the Firearm Violence Reduction Initiative (FVRI)—a collaborative effort between the Imperial District Attorney's Office and the Imperial County Sheriff's Office to identify, prioritize, and disarm individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms.

To support this critical work, the District Attorney's Office has assigned two investigators full-time to the initiative, ensuring consistent attention to reviewing cases, conducting investigations, and enforcing court-ordered firearm prohibitions.

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*“This program strengthens our ability to enforce the law and protect victims,” said George Marquez, Imperial County District Attorney’s Office. “By working in concert with the Imperial County Superior Court and Sheriff’s Office, we’re closing the gap between court orders and enforcement, which ultimately makes our community safer.”*

*Sheriff Fred Miramontes stated: “By closely working with the District Attorney and the Superior Court, we will safely remove firearms and ammunition from individuals that are prohibited from possessing firearms, thereby ensuring our communities are safer.”*

This initiative supports a critical aspect of the justice system: ensuring that court-issued firearm prohibitions are enforced consistently and safely. Through this partnership, restrained individuals receive clear guidance on how to relinquish firearms, while law enforcement is equipped to act when individuals fail to comply

For more information about firearm relinquishment procedures or compliance with court orders, contact the Imperial County District Attorney’s Office at 442-265-1184 or visit <https://da.imperialcounty.org>