

SAVING LIVES, SETTING REGIONAL POLICY

PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FROM FIREARMS

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Summary

Domestic abusers subject to domestic violence protection orders are not surrendering their firearms per state law. Seattle has an opportunity to save lives. And we can simultaneously create countywide policy to effectuate a regional response to surrendering firearms in DV cases. Funding a High Risk Firearms Prosecutor and Court Coordinator will achieve both goals.

Problem

54% of perpetrators in domestic violence homicides were previously ordered to surrender firearms

In 2014, the Washington State Legislature passed HB 1840, which requires anyone subject to a domestic violence protection order (DVPO) to surrender:

All firearms
+
Concealed pistol license

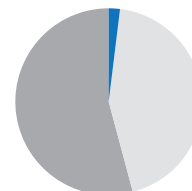
OR

File a declaration that they do not possess a firearm

In 2015
2,638 DVPOs
were issued



24%
Average firearm ownership in King County



2%
Firearms surrendered out of 2,638 orders

44% filed declarations

54% ignored the order completely

Currently there is:

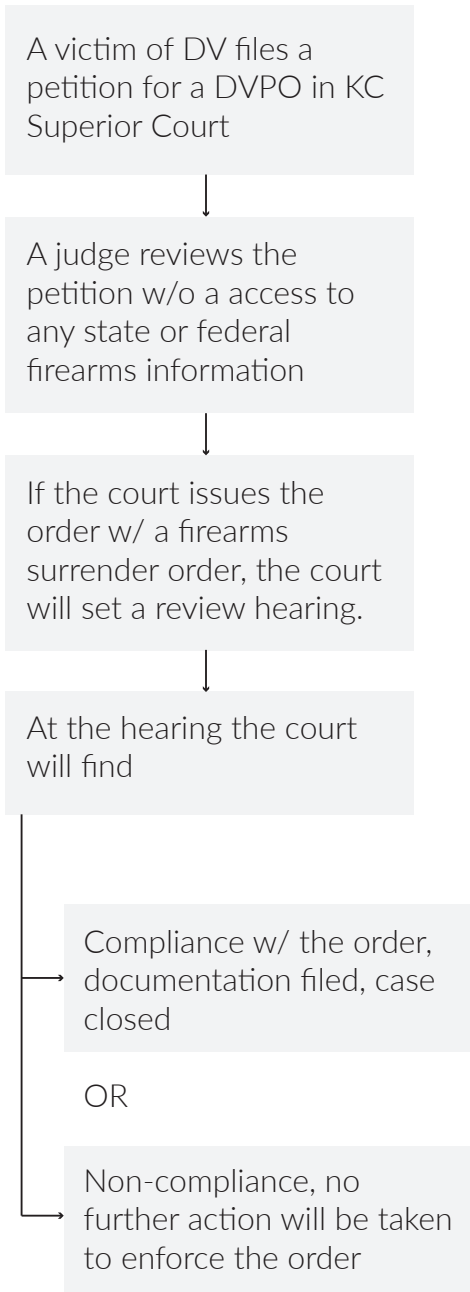
1. No monitoring of compliance
2. No enforcement of non-compliance
3. No agreement between law enforcement agencies as to responsibility for enforcement
4. Limited access to firearms information

Solution

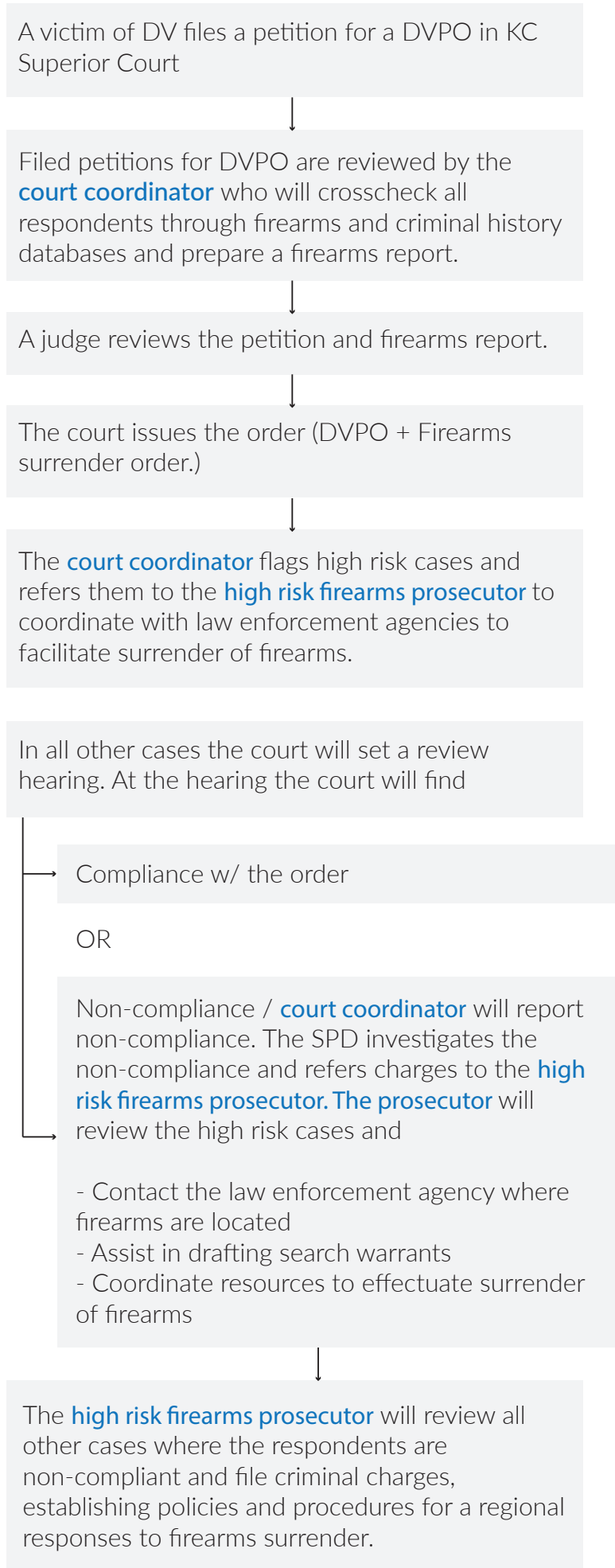
Countywide, a law enforcement task force recommended 3 positions to fill the gap:

1. Project coordinator (funded)
2. **High risk firearms prosecutor**
3. **Court coordinator**

Current DVPO Process



Proposed DVPO Process with Added Positions



Funding

Position	2017 Cost	2018 Cost
Paralegal, Sr.	49,652	102,975
Asst. City Prosecutor - BU	50,500	104,468
Total	\$100,152	\$207,443