

LEADS DAILY BULLETIN

January 7, 2026

Understanding Brady Record Indicator Status on Protective Orders

NCIC mandates that when a Protection Order (PO) is entered, the entering agency must independently determine if the Respondent is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms (*Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 - "Brady Act"*) regardless of whether or not the State judge has imposed such a restriction on the original order. Although the state-issued PO may or may not prohibit the person from possessing firearms, the LEADS agency entering the record is required to determine if the specific federal requirements identified in the Brady Act have been met and therefore, whether the person would be prohibited from possessing firearms pursuant to federal law.

Only a final protection order record (**MKE/EPO, EPOC, EPO3, EPO3C**) can contain a Brady indicator of Y or U (unknown). Emergency or temporary orders (MKE/ETO, ETOC, ETO3, ETO3C) issued *ex parte* do not meet the criteria specified by law, and, therefore, the Brady field is grayed out.

Y – Yes: Respondent is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms, i.e., the order meets the federal criteria.

N – NO: Respondent is not prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms, i.e., the order does not meet the federal criteria.

U – Unknown: Cannot be determined if Respondent is federally prohibited from possessing firearms, i.e., cannot be determined if the order meets the federal criteria. Prior to entering the record, an entering agency should make every attempt to determine the firearm disqualification status. The U code should only be used when it is impossible to make that determination.

The following list enumerates the elements that define a qualifying protection order under the federal firearms prohibition. Generally, a defendant/respondent subject to a protection order that includes one element (indicated below by bullet point) from each section listed below is covered by the federal firearms prohibition:

Hearing

- Defendant/Respondent received actual notice and had an opportunity to participate.

Intimate Partner

- Plaintiff/Petitioner is an **intimate partner** of the Defendant/Respondent this is:
 - A **spouse** of Defendant/Respondent
 - A **former spouse** of Defendant/Respondent
 - An individual who is a **parent** of a child of Defendant/Respondent; **or**
 - An individual who **cohabitates or has cohabited** with Defendant/Respondent.

Intimate Partner--with respect to a person, the spouse of the person, a former spouse of the person, an individual who is a parent of a child of the person, and an individual who cohabit or has cohabited with the person.

Cohabitation--requires a live-in relationship (or former live-in relationship) between two (2) individuals (can be same sex) which, in essence, is a sexual/romantic relationship, NOT merely a roommate.

Restraints Future Conduct (Illinois Remedy 1)

- The order **restrains** Defendant/Respondent from **harassing, stalking, or threatening** the intimate partner, child of the Defendant/Respondent, or child of Defendant/Respondent's intimate partner; **or**

- The order **restrains** Defendant/Respondent from engaging in other conduct that would place the intimate partner in **reasonable fear of bodily injury** to the partner or child.

Credible Threat or Physical Force (Illinois Remedy 1)

- The order includes the finding that Defendant/Respondent is a **credible threat** to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child; **or**
- The order, by the terms, explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of **physical force** against the intimate partner or child that would reasonable be expected to cause bodily injury.

The following chart contains relationships frequently encountered on protection orders and the corresponding value for the Brady (BRD) field:

PROTECTED PERSON	SUBJECT	BRD
Spouse	Spouse	Y
Former spouse	Former spouse	Y
Unmarried Child in Common	Unmarried Child in Common	Y
Unmarried Currently or formerly living together unless documentation of cohabitation exists	Unmarried Currently or formerly living together unless documentation of cohabitation exists	U
Child	Parent	Y
Stepchild	Stepparent	Y
Currently or formerly cohabiting	Currently or formerly cohabiting	Y
Parent	Child	N
Nephew/Niece	Uncle/Aunt	N
Uncle/Aunt	Nephew/Niece	N
Grandchild	Grandparent	N
Grandparent	Grandchild	N
Brother/Sister	Brother/Sister	N
Cousins	Cousins	N
Roommates	Roommates	N
Neighbors	Neighbors	N
Stepparent	Stepchild	N
Boyfriend/Girlfriend unless cohabitation exists	Boyfriend/Girlfriend unless cohabitation exists	N
Same sex cohabiting, intimate relationship	Same sex cohabiting, intimate relationship	Y
Stranger	Stranger	N

For further information, refer to the Brady Record Indicator section 2.5.3 of the Protection Order Chapter in the [NCIC Operating Manual](#).