

Talking with Someone About Secure Firearm Storage

KNOW WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

A conversation about secure firearm storage may seem difficult to start. Many people have strong opinions about firearms, and decisions about how to store them are personal. Securely storing firearms is essential responsibility regardless of whether you live in a state that has secure firearms storage laws.

It is everyone's responsibility to keep our families and communities safe. Talking about secure storage is an important step.



FOR CHILDREN

Firearm-related injuries are a leading cause of death among children, so it is crucial to ensure secure storage to prevent firearm misuse. Many of these injuries are the result of unauthorized access. Having a conversation about secure firearm storage around children can make a big difference.



FOR OLDER ADULTS

With normal aging, medical conditions, or medication use, older adults may show a mental or physical decline. If an older adult cannot safely control and operate a firearm, the risk of injury in the home increases if they can access a firearm. Taking steps to ensure an at-risk older adult can't access firearms can protect everyone's safety.



TO PROTECT AGAINST FIREARM THEFT

Firearms that are stored insecurely in homes or vehicles are prime targets for thieves, and stolen firearms are frequently implicated in future firearm-related crimes. Storing firearms in locked containers reduces the chance of firearm theft and household firearms being used to facilitate other crimes.



TO PROTECT AGAINST SUICIDE

Suicide attempts with a firearm are more deadly than attempts with other methods. Putting time and distance between a person in crisis and a firearm can help save a life. Preventing unauthorized access and enhancing secure storage practices - even if it is temporary - when someone in the home is going through a difficult time can make a difference.

HELPFUL TIPS TO START A CONVERSATION ABOUT YOUR LOVED ONE'S STORAGE PRACTICES

- Don't be confrontational. Be respectful.
- There is no harm in asking. There is potentially more harm in not asking.
- Hear them out.
- Be prepared to help them find an appropriate method to keep their firearms secure.

