



# SAFE STORAGE SAVES LIVES

A Guide to Supporting Safe  
Gun Storage in Texas



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**TEXAS  
GUN SENSE**

# OVERVIEW

Texas has a long history of responsible gun ownership, and a critical piece of that is ensuring that all firearms are stored securely. Safely storing firearms reduces theft and prevents tragedies including unintentional shootings, suicides, and school shootings.

Strengthening safe gun storage laws, shifting the culture around secure storage practices, and expanding education and resources are top priorities for Texas Gun Sense.

**Safe storage saves lives.** Dig into our toolkit to equip yourself with the knowledge you need to be a strong safe gun storage advocate — and help us build a safer Texas.

# THE DATA



**Texas veterans die by suicide at a significantly higher rate than the general population, using firearms to complete suicide 78% of the time. (2021)**

**76% of school shooters obtain their firearms from home. (2022)**

**In 2023, Texas had 36 unintentional shootings by children that resulted in 14 deaths and 23 injuries.**

**Last year, the number of Texans who used a gun to take their life was the highest since at least 1999.**

**In 2018, the 17 y/o who killed 10 and injured 13 at Santa Fe HS used his father's guns. The parents were not held liable under Texas' safe storage law.**

# UNDERSTANDING TEXAS FIREARM STORAGE LAWS

Texas has no laws that require unattended firearms to be stored in a certain way. Texas also does not require a locking device to accompany the sale of a firearm, and no state statutes require firearm owners to lock their weapon.

Though advocating for gun safety in Texas can be challenging, Texas Gun Sense and its partners advanced a critical gun safety policy during the 88th Legislative Session. Now, Texas school districts must share safe firearm storage information with parents and guardians. This life-saving effort has also gained traction around the country, including through the White House's new Office of Gun Violence Prevention. **Change is possible!**

# CHILD ACCESS PREVENTION

Under Texas law, if a child under 17 years of age gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm (i.e., loaded with ammunition, whether or not a round is in the chamber), a person may be criminally liable if he or she, “with criminal negligence:”

- Failed to secure the firearm (i.e., to take steps a reasonable person would take to prevent the access to a readily dischargeable firearm by a child, including but not limited to placing a firearm in a locked container or temporarily rendering the firearm inoperable by a trigger lock or other means); or
- Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access.

"Secure" means taking reasonable steps to prevent a child's access to a firearm capable of being fired, such as locking it in a secure container or making it temporarily inoperable with a trigger lock. Violations of this law carry harsher penalties if a child discharges the firearm, resulting in death or serious injury to themselves or others.

# POLICY GOALS



Requiring that adults secure firearms **safely**

**Mandatory** reporting of lost and stolen guns

Continuing to fund **educational resources** like Keep 'Em Safe

**Strengthening** Child Access Prevention laws

Ongoing engagement with **school districts** on safe storage

# BE A SAFE GUN STORAGE ADVOCATE



**01**

Store all firearms unloaded in a safe or other locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere.

**02**

Ask others about gun storage in their home. When bringing children to other people's homes, simply ask, text, or email "If you own guns, are they stored securely?" This one question could save someone's life.

**03**

Research safe storage solutions such as gun safes, lockboxes, and cable locks. Organizations like Lock Arms for Life give away free gun locks.

**04**

Take Action! Contact your elected representatives and urge them to support safe gun storage legislation.

**05**

Help ensure the implementation of Section 19 of HB3, which instructs school districts to distribute information about safe firearm storage.

**06**

# CONCLUSION



Join us in continuing to advocate for safe firearm storage policies and education, ensuring that every lawmaker knows the majority of Texans support responsible gun laws and practices. Everyone, regardless of political affiliation, must speak up for safer homes, schools and communities.

By joining together as safe gun storage advocates, we can prevent tragedies in Texas. **Thank you** for your commitment to responsible gun ownership and a safer Texas.





# RESOURCES



Sample letter to school  
superintendents



Texas Department of Public  
Safety (Keep 'Em Safe Texas)



Texas School Safety Center