

One conversation can make a difference



Do your children spend time in someone else's home? Ask the parents or caregivers if there are firearms in the home and how they are stored.



Talking about suicide and mental health will not make a person more likely to act on their thoughts. If you are worried about someone, ask clear, supportive and direct questions:

- Are you thinking about hurting yourself?
- What would you need to feel safe right now?



Talk to young children about what to do if they find a firearm.

Keep it simple and clear:

- Stop!
- Don't touch.
- Leave the area.
- Find an adult immediately.

For more information, visit the Department of Public Safety's website.



dps.mn.gov/firearmsafety

Firearm safety is everyone's responsibility. Learn about the best options for your needs.



Lock it

Gun locks are a simple, quick and affordable way to prevent harm.



Store securely

Safe storage practices are the most effective way to keep firearms away from children and others who should not have access.



Pause to protect

Temporary restrictions on firearm access can keep everyone safe when someone is in crisis. These can be voluntary. Legal methods called ERPOs do not result in a criminal record.

If you or someone else
is in immediate danger
CALL 911

Protect what matters.



FIREARM SAFETY

A practical guide
to reduce risk and
prevent harm.



Firearm safety starts at home

Many firearm-related accidents and deaths can be prevented with the right mix of safe storage practices and preventative information. Your firearm provides you with security. Your safe does too.

No matter your circumstances, review your storage practices regularly to ensure firearms cannot be accessed by:

- Children
- Teens
- Thieves
- People at risk of suicide
- People who cannot legally possess firearms
- Older adults experiencing memory loss or confusion

Store your firearms responsibly

Minnesota law requires loaded firearms to be secured so children cannot get to them.

Hiding or putting a firearm out of reach is not enough to keep people safe. Owners are also responsible for keeping their firearms out of the hands of any person who is not legally allowed to have one.

Different firearm safety options meet different needs. Choose the highest level of security that works for you and use it consistently at home, in your vehicle and anywhere you have a firearm.

Learn about Extreme Risk Protection Orders

When a person is in crisis, they may show warning signs that they could harm themselves or others.

In Minnesota, Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) laws allow a civil court judge to assess whether a person poses a threat. They can issue temporary orders to prevent that person from owning, purchasing or possessing firearms.

These laws are a proven way to intervene before a tragedy occurs and safeguard individuals in crisis without resulting in a criminal record.

Read more at dps.mn.gov/ERPO.

Firearm safety options

Layering safety measures can help you balance accessibility with protection for you, your family and anyone who might access your firearms.

