Keep it locked.
Keep kids safe and secure.

Store securely

If you or someone you know owns a firearm, making safety your top priority is essential.

Did you know that firearms are a leading cause of death for children in the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control?

The most effective way to reduce firearm-related injuries and deaths, including suicide, is to keep firearms secure, unloaded and stored separately from ammunition.

- **Use a gun lock.**
- **Store unloaded firearms in a locked safe or case.**
- **Secure ammunition separately.**
- **Secure keys or other access methods.**

What the law requires

Minnesota law requires that loaded firearms be secured so children can't get to them. But true responsibility goes further.

Hiding or putting a firearm out of reach isn't enough to keep kids safe.

Use safe, consistent storage practices at home, in your vehicle and anywhere you have a firearm. It can protect your family and prevent tragedy.



Find out where you can get a free gun lock and learn more about safe storage options.

SafeandSecureMN.org

Talk to kids and other parents about firearm safety



Simple conversations about firearm safety could make a lifetime of difference.

Teach children early that real firearms are different than toy guns and can cause serious harm.

Talk to your 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.

A Johns Hopkins study shows that one-third of American children live in a home with a firearm. Do your children spend time in someone else's home? Ask the parents or homeowners if there are firearms in the home and how they're stored.

Mental health is an important part of overall well-being for your child. Help is available to identify the warning signs for suicide and other mental health concerns. If you think your child may hurt themselves or others, take extra precautions to secure firearms. Every barrier to access reduces the risk.

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE
988lifeline.org

For additional questions about family engagement and mental health, reach out to Minnesota Department of Education's Community Support Message Line.

651-785-4064

Please leave a message in any language.