

Safe Gun Storage

Lock It Up!



Safe Storage Could Save Your Child's Life

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute reports that **1.7 million** children live in homes with unlocked, loaded guns and that **89%** of unintentional shooting deaths of children occur at home.

An Unsecured Gun A Curious Child A Terrible Tragedy

What can you do to save a life?

If you own one or more guns:

- Make sure they are not loaded.
- Use a gun lock on each gun and store in a locked location.
- Store ammunition in a locked location separate from gun.
- Studies show children know where your "hiding places" are and "hiding places" are not safe storage.
- Unless your weapon is in your DIRECT possession, it needs to be locked up or secure. It's the law! *

*MA Gun Law Chapter 140, § 131L

How you can help save lives over →

Having a Conversation

Even if you don't own a gun, you need to ask the parents of your children's playmates if there are guns in their homes. It's no different than asking about other safety concerns such as allergies. Teach your child to **NEVER** touch a gun without adult supervision and to leave the area and get an adult if someone is playing with a gun.

Remember to ask:

- If the guns are stored unloaded, locked and in a secure manner separate from locked ammunition.
- If you are not comfortable with the answer, offer your house as a play date location.
- If the play date is at your house, you can either tell parents that you do not have guns (if you don't) or that you do have guns, and they are properly secured. This starts a conversation for later play dates at their house.

Safe Storage Saves Lives

Resources:

For more information on the *Lock It Up Campaign*:

www.capecodgag.org

www.capecodgagv@gmail.com