

# END FAMILY FIRE

Safe firearm storage saves lives.



**Family fire puts a name to the preventable tragedies that occur when someone has access to an unsecured gun from the home when they shouldn't have it.**

This includes children as well as those who display behavior that indicates they could harm themselves or others. Unintentional shootings, suicide, and intentional shootings are all forms of family fire. Storing all guns in the home securely is proven to reduce incidents of family fire while still providing you with quick access when it's needed.

## THE FACTS

Every day **8** children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed due to family fire



**4.6** million children live in homes with access to an unlocked or unsupervised gun



Nearly **1** in 4 children have handled a gun in their home without their parents knowing



Access to a increases the risk of death by suicide by **3x**



**76%** of school shooters under 18 get their gun from the home or home of a close relative



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Firearm storage may look different for everyone, but locking all of your guns is a great first step to prevent unintended access. If all of your guns are locked, consider storing your guns unloaded and away from ammunition for additional security. ASKing Saves Kids so be sure to ASK family and friends if there are unlocked guns in the home and engage in ongoing conversations about safe storage practices. It's important to reevaluate your approach to firearm storage as your household evolves, such as by bringing a child into the home, caring for an elderly loved one, or supporting a loved one in crisis.

## HOW TO START THE CONVERSATION

**Asking Saves Kids (ASK).** Parents and guardians ask all sorts of questions before they allow their children to visit other homes. They ask about pets in the house, discuss allergies and internet access, and ask questions about supervision. As a way to prevent family fire, we encourage parents and guardians to add one more question to this conversation: "Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?" It's a simple question, but ASKing has the power to save a life.

## Here are some tips to help you start the ASK conversation about safe firearm storage:

- 1. Assume that guns are a part of everyone's life.** When bringing your child to another home, ask how their guns are stored or whether they have unlocked guns, rather than whether or not they have them. Families may respond that they don't own guns, but, if they do, your question can open the conversation into a larger discussion about the family's storage practices without making them feel potentially stigmatized for their decision to own firearms.
- 2. Don't be confrontational.** Most gun owners agree that firearm safety is a critical part of gun ownership. The differences often come down to language and the way we frame these important conversations. Present information in a respectful manner, emphasizing your concern for your child's safety. Accusing someone of not being responsible could end an important conversation about safe gun storage that we know can save lives.
- 3. Know the facts.** 4.6 million kids live in homes with access to an unlocked gun and every day, eight children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed due to an unlocked or unsupervised gun in the home. Learn more at [endfamilyfire.org](http://endfamilyfire.org).
- 4. Commend Responsible Firearm Ownership.** Be sure to commend gun-owning families for taking the necessary steps to ensure child safety.

Hi Sarah. Sam is so excited to come over to play with Oliver. I know they want to go in the pool, but Sam hasn't quite mastered swimming yet. Will you be there to supervise and help him? He also has a peanut allergy so I'll pack him a snack. If you have any firearms, are they kept locked? Sam is always getting into things. Thanks!

## TYPES OF SAFE FIREARM STORAGE



**Cable & Trigger Locks:** Cable locks run a cable through the chamber of the gun and out the magwell to prevent the gun from being fired. A trigger lock is a small two-piece lock that fits over or through the trigger guard to prevent the trigger from being pulled.



**Gun Safes & Cabinets:** Home gun safes and cabinets are available in a variety of sizes and require a key, combination, or biometric data to unlock.



**Lock Boxes & Carrying Cases:** Lock boxes and carrying cases are small, lightweight storage options commonly used for transporting guns.



**Off-Site Storage:** Firearm retailers, shooting ranges, and/or law enforcement facilities in your area may offer off-site gun storage.