

# When Firearm Safety and **Safe Storage** is Your Goal

The **safest** thing to do while someone is at increased risk for suicide in your home is to **store your firearms outside your home**.



First, watch this **short video** about what youth experience and how you can help **protect your child**.



Next, learn about **safety planning** with help from a therapist and firearms expert to make your home safe.



Firearms are the **leading method of suicide**. Putting time and distance between a person in crisis and firearms saves lives. Protect teens and help prevent suicide by locking up guns and ammo in secure safes or moving them off-site until the crisis has been averted. **Watch this video** for one example of how gun safety can help protect lives.



► English



► Español

Take our **LiVe Well Suicide Awareness training** to learn more about suicide prevention with the tools you need to talk about suicide and help those in suicidal crisis be safe and access the resources they need.



## Safe Off-Site Storage Options Include:

**A Trusted Family Member or Friend:** Phone a friend or family member. It will not only keep you and your loved one safe, but it will also provide you with more support to manage this difficult time.

**Law Enforcement:** Call local law enforcement to understand the procedures for giving them your firearms and returning them to you.

**Offsite Storage at a Self-Storage Rental Facility:** Some facilities have safety deposit boxes and smaller options if you are storing handguns. If you have shotguns and rifles, you may need a bigger space.

**Shooting Ranges or Gun Shops:** Some facilities have storage options. Call ahead to find out. You could also take your firearm(s) in to be cleaned and serviced and have them hold them until the risk is decreased.

**Pawn Shops:** Many pawn shops will hold your firearms either as a pawn item or for a small fee. Call ahead to verify with your local pawn shop.



## When Off-Site Storage is **not** an Option, the Next Best On-Site Storage Options Include:

**Store Your Firearm(s) in a Gun Safe or Firearm-Specific Storage Lock Box:** Gun Safes are the most secure on-site storage option. Lock unloaded firearms with a cable-style gun lock, remove the firing pin and store them securely, change codes and secure keys. Family members often know "family passwords" to gun safes, update for added security.

**Temporarily Store Ammunition Off-Site:** Temporarily remove ammunition from your home or keep it in a separate locked location from secured firearms.

**Trigger Locks and Cable Locks:** Trigger and cable locks aren't as safe as locking in a secure gun safe, but they are better than not locking at all. In addition, they can be used with a gun safe for extra protection.

**Remove a Key Component of the Firearm:** Remove the firing pin, slide, or other critical component and give it to a family member or friend to hold until the risk has passed.



## Other Options



Your safety is our top priority. A free, anonymous **decision support tool** can help you make decisions about temporarily reducing access to potentially dangerous things such as firearms, medicines, sharp objects, or other household items.



## What Options are **not** Recommended?

**Hiding Firearms is not Recommended:** Family members often know each other's hiding places.

**Doing Nothing is not Recommended:** If someone in your home has had suicidal thoughts or made a plan or attempt, please take them seriously; make your home safe by changing the codes on your safes and following these and other safety recommendations.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please call 988

