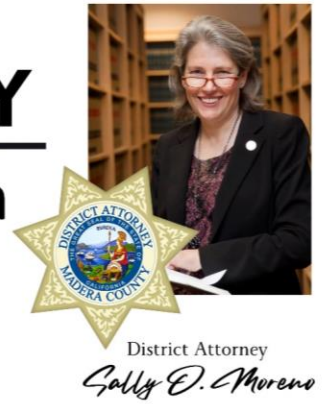




MADERA COUNTY

Firearms Storage Bulletin



Dear Parents,

In accordance with CA State regulations surrounding school firearm safety notifications, the Madera County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office are partnering to provide this safety bulletin.

In many instances of on-campus gun related incidents, the student obtained the firearm(s) from their own home. Events like these can be easily prevented by storing firearms in a safe and secure manner, including keeping them locked up when not in use, and storing them separately from ammunition.

To reinforce our commitment to supporting responsible gun ownership and help parents understand their legal responsibilities, the following summary of California law regarding the storage of firearms has been compiled for your reference. Please take some time to review these guidelines and evaluate your own personal practices to ensure that you and your family are in compliance with California law.

- With very limited exceptions, California makes a person criminally liable for keeping any firearm, loaded or unloaded, within any premises that are under their custody and control where that person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby (1) causes death or injury to the child or any other person; (2) carries the firearm off the premises or to a public place, including to any preschool or school grades kindergarten through twelfth grade, or to any school-sponsored event, activity, or performance; or (3) unlawfully brandishes the firearm to others. The criminal penalty may be significantly greater if someone dies or suffers great bodily injury as a result of the child gaining access to the firearm. (California Penal Code sections 25100 through 25125 and 25200 through 25220).
- With very limited exceptions, California also makes it a crime for a person to negligently store or leave any firearm, loaded or unloaded, on their premises in a location where the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to it without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child, even where a minor never actually accesses the firearm. (California Penal Code section 25100(c)).
- In addition to potential fines and terms of imprisonment, as of January 1, 2020, a gun owner found criminally liable under these California laws faces prohibitions from possessing, controlling, owning, receiving, or purchasing a firearm for 10 years (California Civil Code section 29805).
- Finally, a parent or guardian may also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person's child or dependent (California Civil Code section 1714.3).

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our children and schools safe. Remember that the simplest and most reliable way to comply with the law prohibiting children's access to firearms is by storing them in a locked container, or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable. We are committed to supporting responsible gun ownership. If you have questions or need compliance assistance, please contact our office.

