



RMA Texas Public Schools

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Texas law now requires school districts to distribute information to parents and guardians about the safe storage of firearms. The attached information will help you learn about options for, as well as how to talk to your child and others about, the safe storage of firearms.

In 2021, 4,613 Texans experienced gun-related deaths. The Texas Department of State Health Services (SHS) reports that 55% of Texas firearms deaths in 2020 were suicides and that 59% of all suicides in Texas were by firearms. Suicide attempts involving firearms have a 90% fatality rate. Restricting access to guns is critical in reducing acts of violence, whether as self-harm or **towards others. Acts of mass violence and interpersonal violence often end in suicide.**

It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm. Under [Texas Penal Code 46.13](#), a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if the child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence:

- Failed to secure the firearm; or
- Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access

The penalty for allowing a child access to a firearm can range from a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a \$500 fine) to a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a \$4000 fine, a year in jail, or a combination of the two).

Texas exempts the purchase of firearm safety equipment from [Texas Sales and Use Tax](#).

Remember, a gun should be stored unloaded in a safe or locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere. You can learn more and find additional resources from the Texas Department of Public Safety at <https://safegunstoragetexas.com>.

Safe gun storage is critical to preventing suicide, unintentional shootings, and other tragedies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Derrick Smith' in a cursive script.

Derrick Smith, RMA-Killeen Principal

SAFE GUN STORAGE DEVICES



CHOOSE WHAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU

Protecting all Texans means knowing how to stop weapons from reaching the wrong hands. No matter where you keep your gun, it needs to be stored safely when you're finished using it. There are many choices when it comes to safe gun storage. It all depends on the type of firearm, your living situation, and cost.



CABLE LOCK

A cable lock blocks the barrel of the firearm from locking into position to prevent firing of the weapon. They are available with a key or combination lock.

- ★ Affordable
- ★ Widely available



TRIGGER LOCK

A trigger lock clamps down around the trigger and trigger guard to prevent the trigger from being pulled. They are available with a key or combination lock.

- ★ Affordable
- ★ Widely available



BIOMETRIC LOCK

A type of trigger lock, the biometric lock is customized for you and your firearm. It uses fingerprint technology to allow access.

- ★ Quick access in case of emergency
- ★ Only authorized user(s) will be able to handle the gun



GUN CASE

A gun case is a portable firearm storage case that is made of plastic. An external lock can be added for extra security.

- ★ Easily transported
- ★ Protects firearm from damage



STRONG BOX

A strong box is a small safe designed to store a single or multiple firearms. They are accessible with key, code, or fingerprint technology. Most are designed to be mountable to a vertical surface.

- ★ Portable
- ★ More durable than gun cases
- ★ Difficult to steal if permanently mounted to a vertical surface
- ★ Can store multiple firearms



GUN CABINETS

A gun cabinet can store multiple firearms. They're more like furniture and are often crafted of wood and glass to display guns. Most will have a locking feature.

- ★ Usually less expensive than a gun safe
- ★ Aesthetically pleasing



GUN SAFE/VAULT

The most secure option, a gun safe can store multiple firearms and ammunition. They are usually made from steel and heavy. It is recommended they be secured to prevent them from falling over. They can be opened by a key, code, or fingerprint technology.

- ★ Difficult to steal
- ★ Can store multiple devices and other personal items
- ★ Keeps firearms out of sight
- ★ Most are fire-resistant

The Texas Department of Public Safety does not endorse any type or manufacturer of gun safes or locks.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP 'EM SAFE, TEXAS!

SafeGunStorageTexas.com