

Gun Storage

Safe storage for sporting/hunting firearms:

- Firearms are to be unloaded and securely stored in a location inaccessible to children and unauthorized users. Hiding the gun is not enough.
- Sporting firearms should be unloaded before they are brought into the home and never loaded while in the home.
- Sporting firearms should be immediately cleaned and placed in secure storage when they are returned from hunting or target shooting. Thoroughly double check firearms to confirm they are unloaded when you remove them from storage.
- Store ammunition in a locked location- separate from firearms.

Firearms kept for home security:

- Keeping a firearm to defend your family makes no sense if that same firearm puts family members or visitors to your home at risk.
- In keeping a firearm for home security, your objective should be to have the firearm readily available to you, yet not accessible to others.
- Special lockable cases that can be quickly opened by authorized individuals are options to consider.

If you own a firearm, it is your responsibility to know how to properly handle and safely secure your firearm in your home. If you are unable to accept the responsibilities, you should not own a firearm.

GUN SAFETY TIPS



Henderson County Sheriff's Office
www.hendersonsheriff.org
(828) 697-4596
EMERGENCY 911

Cardinal Rules of Gun Safety

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Point your firearms in a safe direction, one where an unintentional discharge will cause no human injury and, at most, minor property damage.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard, indexed along the frame or slide until you are on target and have decided to fire.
4. Be sure of your target/threat, backstop, and beyond.

Kids & Gun Safety

Talk to your kids and/or grandkids about gun safety on a regular basis.

If they come in contact with a gun, teach them to:

- Stop what they're doing
- Do not touch the gun
- Leave the area where the gun is
- Tell an adult right away

More resources to assist you in instructing children about gun safety can be found at:

- <https://eddieeagle.nra.org/>
- <http://www.projectchildsafe.org/>

Gun Storage and the Law

§ 14-315.1. Storage of firearms to protect minors.

(a) Any person who resides in the same premises as a minor, owns or possesses a firearm, and stores or leaves the firearm (i) in a condition that the firearm can be discharged and (ii) in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if a minor gains access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or a person having charge of the minor and the minor:

- (1) Possesses it in violation of G.S. 14-269.2(b);
- (2) Exhibits it in a public place in a careless, angry, or threatening manner;
- (3) Causes personal injury or death with it not in self defense; or
- (4) Uses it in the commission of a crime.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person from carrying a firearm on his or her body, or placed in such close proximity that it can be used as easily and quickly as if carried on the body.

(c) This section shall not apply if the minor obtained the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry by any person.

(d) "Minor" as used in this section means a person under 18 years of age who is not emancipated. (1993, c. 558, s. 2; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 14, s. 11.)