

SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

What to do with guns when a person may be in crisis.

FACT: Safe storage of a firearm for a loved one is a critical way to get them safely through a crisis period and is proven to save lives.


What to do when a person is in crisis? When there is an emotional crisis (like a break-up, job loss, legal trouble) or a major change in someone's behavior (like depression or anger, more drinking) that causes concern, storing guns outside the home until the situation improves may save a life.



Thanks to Safe Communities Madison-Dane County

Options for Gun Storage

Using the guidelines below, you can help a person in crisis.

- Turn over all firearms to a trusted family member or friend who lives elsewhere. Be sure all firearms are unloaded before transport.
- Contact your local gun shop and ask if they are willing to store the firearms. Tell them that you need temporary storage during a crisis.
- Please visit the BeThereWis website to view a virtual map listing gun shops that will accept firearms for storage in a safe. A small fee is charged for a safety check. www.betherewis.com/firearm-storage-online-map/ 
- Rent a storage facility and secure the firearm there. Ensure the keys or combinations are not available to the person in crisis.
- If it is not possible to get the guns out of the house, lock up all the unloaded firearms in a hard-sided gun case. Remove ammunition from the home or lock in a separate location.
- Use cable gun locks. They are available from healthcare facilities and local law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement can assist in unloading weapons and securing them with cable gun locks.

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Promoted by Wisconsin gun shops and the Captain John D. Mason Veteran Peer Outreach Program, on behalf of the Southeastern Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Taskforce and BeThereWis.com