

What is the secure storage law in Michigan?

Michigan's secure storage law went into effect Feb. 13, 2024 to help protect Michigan's youth and reduce firearm injuries. The law requires firearm owners to securely store firearms whenever minors are present or likely to be present. It also requires schools to share this information with all parents and guardians to support youth safety, injury prevention, and help parents, guardians and firearm owners understand and comply with the secure storage law.

Summary of the Law *(MCL 28.429)*

Secure Storage Requirements

If a firearm is unattended where a minor (under 18) is or is likely to be present, it must be:



- Secured in a locked box or container, and/or
- Unloaded and secured with a locking device, like a trigger or cable lock, that would prevent anyone from using it.

This law applies whether firearms are in your own home or brought to another location.

Firearms in Vehicles

While traveling with a firearm in a vehicle, the vehicle must be locked when not in use, and the firearm must be secured and either locked in a container or unloaded and disabled with a trigger or cable lock if a child is present or likely to be present in the vehicle or destination.

Importance and Benefits of Secure Storage to Help Keep Children Safe

Legal ownership of firearms is a Constitutional right. This comes with important safety responsibilities to prevent thefts, firearm homicide, firearm suicide, and unintentional firearm injuries, including among children. **Simply hiding unlocked firearms or keeping them on a shelf out of reach does not guarantee or equal secure storage under Michigan law.** Secure storage reduces the risk of unintentional injuries among children and theft of firearms. When access to firearms is reduced, the overall suicide rate drops.

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Unintentional firearm injuries among children 17 years and younger happen **most often with firearms that are loaded and unlocked or when a child is playing with a firearm or showing it to someone else**. In these situations, the most common victim of an unintentional firearm injury is a friend or a sibling of the child.

Closets and nightstands are common locations of firearms used in fatal unintended shootings.



For more information, visit the MDHHS firearm secure storage page at MDHHS Secure Storage or scan the QR code. View additional resources below:

- Project ChildSafe
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Call or text 988)
- University of Michigan Family Guide to Firearm Home Safety