Resources for Social Workers to Prevent Firearm-Related Harm

Updated October 2023

Intervening to Prevent Firearm-Related Harm

Intervention options that could be included as part of a robust safety plan collaboratively developed with client:

- Recommend more secure storage of firearm in-home (e.g., lock firearm and ammunition separately)
- Give client a firearm locking mechanism (e.g., cable lock or lockbox)
- Work with client’s family or friends to facilitate voluntary firearm removal
- Recommend voluntary, out-of-home community storage
- Recommend extreme risk protection order (ERPO)

Factors influencing recommendations

- Client-specific factors
  - Social and medical history
  - Ability to engage in collaborative safety planning
  - Values related to firearms
  - Risk for structural harm due to social identities (e.g., racism)
- Social worker-specific factors
  - Lived experiences
  - Workplace norms and policies
  - Morals and ethics

Types of Firearm Locking Mechanisms

- Cable Lock
- Lockbox
- Gun Safe
- Life Jacket

On the following page are resources, trainings, and more information about how social workers can support clients at risk of firearm-related harm. Links can be accessed via a virtual version of the flyer with this QR code.
**Encouraging Responsible Firearm Storage**

- **Lock To Live** is an interactive website that helps you and your client build a tailored safety plan
- **Washington State firearm safe storage map** is an interactive map of gun shops, shooting ranges, and police stations willing to consider requests for temporary firearm storage
- **Lock It Up** (King County) is designed to educate health professionals on how to facilitate conversations with clients about firearm storage option.
- **Children's of Wisconsin** has a hand-out for parents on safe firearm storage after their child attempts suicide
- **The American Academy of Pediatrics** hosts a training on counseling about safe firearm storage

**Voluntary Waiver of Firearm Rights (Do-Not-Sell) List**

- Lets people voluntarily and confidentially restrict immediate access to firearm purchase
- Stops impulsive firearm purchasing at the time when someone is in crisis, and can be reversed by the individual
- Instructions on filing found [here](#)

**Selected Other Trainings and Resources for Clinicians**

- The **Joyce Foundation** stores recorded webinars on intimate partner violence, equity issues, firearm ownership, and policy trends
- The **University of Michigan** Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention hosts a course on the science of firearm injury prevention among children and teens
- The **BulletPoints Project** has several clinical tools for preventing firearm injury

**More Information**

- For more information or to ask any questions, you can contact Kelsey Conrick (kmc621@uw.edu) or visit [fiprp.uw.edu](http://fiprp.uw.edu)