

# Handling Firearms SAFELY

## *A guide for responsible gun ownership*



### SAFETY TIPS

- **Do not play with a firearm.**
- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Only use the proper ammunition for your gun.
- Do not place your finger on the trigger unless you intend to fire.
- Avoid holding the firearm while conducting other routine activities.
- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap.
- **Do not handle firearms when under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**
- Do not handle firearms if you are on any medication which impairs your mental or physical ability.
- Be aware of the safety features of the gun and practice safety engagement without ammunition.

### Firearm Storage

- Keep firearms unloaded when not in use.
- **Simply hiding a firearm is not secure storage.** Keep weapons (1) locked, (2) unloaded and (3) separate from stored ammunition. Gun locks can provide added security.
- **Storing firearms in a locked vehicle is not secure storage.** If you must temporarily store a gun in your vehicle, use a secure storage device and keep it out of sight.

### OHIO LAW

- Do not sell, lend, give, or furnish firearms to any prohibited persons.  
**Doing so is a felony.**
- Do not sell or furnish a firearm to a minor, except for lawful hunting, sporting, or educational purposes  
**Doing so is a felony.**
- Failure to report the loss or theft of any firearm in a person's possession is **a misdemeanor.**

### Firearm Maintenance

- When choosing a firearm safety course, look for one where weapon cleaning is a covered topic.
- Cleaning your gun regularly is important for your gun to operate correctly and safely.
- Before cleaning, make absolutely sure the gun is unloaded.
- Clean any gun brought out of prolonged storage before firing it.



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