



Dear Parents and Guardians:

We all work hard to ensure the safety and success of the children under our care. To protect innocent lives, the San Diego City Council enacted my Safe Storage for Firearms Ordinance last summer.

Under this law, anyone keeping guns in their home **must keep all their firearms secured** so that unauthorized users -- such as children, family members with dementia, and those prohibited by law from possessing firearms -- cannot access the weapons.

To follow the law, parents and guardians should store firearms in locked containers or disabled them with trigger locks.

When safe storage is not practiced at home, children are at risk:

- **4.5 million children live in homes with 1 or more loaded and unlocked firearms**
- **Only 54% of gun owners with children practice safe storage of their firearms**
- **73% of children under age 10 know where parents store guns, and 36% have handled them**
- **Over 227 deadly mass attacks have occurred at our nation's schools since 1993 – including 5 in San Diego County**
- **Access to guns increases the risk of death by suicide 300%**
- **Studies show that practicing safe storage is a proven way to reduce gun injuries and deaths**

Resources are available to help Sweetwater Union High School District families to cover costs of firearm safety equipment, including through [It's Up To Us San Diego](http://up2sd.org) (up2sd.org) and [Alzheimer's San Diego](#), which offers free gun locks to families impacted by dementia (858-492-4400). Chula Vista and San Diego Police have information about free locks through Project ChildSafe, as well as safe disposal of unwanted firearms.

The children in your home depend on you for their care and safety. By practicing safe storage, you will not just be following the law, you will be providing them with necessary protection against gun violence.

Sincerely yours,

Mara W. Elliott, San Diego City Attorney