

TAKE THE PLEDGE:



To do everything in my power to protect my child from gun violence.

I am aware that thousands of children are killed or injured in accidents involving adults' guns, and I will no longer allow my child to be exposed to this risk.

If there is a gun in my home, I will make sure that the gun is locked and stored separately from the ammunition.

I will ask if there is a gun in any home where my children may play; and if there is a gun, I will invite the other child to play at my safe home.

I MAKE THIS PROMISE TO:

_____ (myself, my children, my neighbors...)

YOUR NAME:



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Serving
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If you have any questions, you can reach us at:

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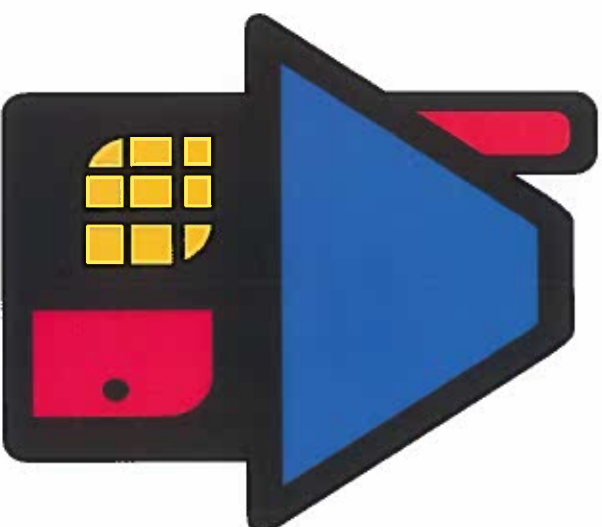
<http://sawwww.co.alachua.fl.us/payback/>

INCREASE THE PEACE.



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**OVER 40% OF
AMERICAN HOMES
WITH CHILDREN
HAVE A GUN...**



**IS THERE A
GUN IN
YOUR
HOME?**

WHAT FLORIDA LAW SAYS... (S. 790.174)

"A person who stores or leaves, on a premise under his or her control, a loaded firearm...and who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm... shall keep the firearm in a securely locked box or container, or in a location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure or shall secure it with a trigger lock..." If a person violates this law, it is a misdemeanor of the second degree.



THE FACTS AND STATS...

- > Half of all accidental shootings of kids under 17 occur in their homes. A third occurs in the homes of friends and relatives.
- > Every 24 hours, another 10 children and teens die from guns, often because they had access to a firearm brought into the home by an adult.
- > A gun in the home is 22 times more likely to kill or injure a friend or family member than an intruder.
- > Alachua County fourth and fifth graders reported having held a loaded handgun as early as five years of age.
- > Young children do possess the physical strength to fire a gun: 25% of 3-4 year olds, 70% of 5-6 year olds, and 90% of 7-8 year olds can fire most handguns.

Many parents think that a gun in the home is protective, rather than dangerous. In reality, the same gun that you keep at home for protection, is the same gun that puts your children at risk.

WHAT CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT GUNS:

If your child sees a gun in your home, at a neighbor's house, at school or on the street, they should remember the following rules:

- **Do not touch the gun!** Assume that the gun is loaded, which could pose a serious risk to them or those around them.
- **Leave the area right away:** If the gun is loaded and another child decides to pick up the gun or play with it, they are in immediate danger.
- **Tell a parent or a trusted adult** that they saw a gun and where it was located.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS:

If you have a gun in your home, the degree of your child's safety rests entirely on you. Parents who learn, practice and teach gun safety rules will increase the degree of their child's safety.

Even if you do not have a gun in your home, it is very likely that someone you know does. Your child could be exposed to a gun at a friend or neighbor's house, or under any circumstance outside your home.

It is up to you to protect your child from gaining access to guns, and it is critical that you teach your child what to do if he or she encounters a firearm anywhere. Doing so may prevent unintentional shootings, homicides and suicides.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH GUNS?

1. **Always keep your gun(s) properly stored.** A properly stored gun is unloaded, locked in a secured container such as a gun safe, stored in a separate location from the ammunition, and out of the reach and sight of children.
2. **Talk to your children about guns.** Because children are curious by nature, they must be taught at an early age that guns can lead to serious injury or death. Educate them about how to stay safe, rather than just ordering them to stay out of the gun closet; this could stimulate more interest.
3. **Before you send your child to someone else's home, ask if there is a gun in their home.** Include this question as part of the list of things parents normally discuss like seat belts, allergies, or pets. The goal of asking this question is not to pass judgment or invade privacy, but to keep your child safe.

