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LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOS ANGELES SCHOOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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AARON PISARZEWICZ
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

RE: INFORMATION REGARDING PARENT/GUARDIAN LEGAL DUTIES CONCERNING SAFE GUN STORAGE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Providing our students and staff with a safe educational environment remains one of our top priorities. We are all aware of incidents of gun violence in our surrounding communities and across the nation. In California each year, an average of 27 children under the age of 18 have died by suicide with a gun that belonged to someone at home. In the majority of these gun-related incidents, the minor gained access to a lawfully purchased gun from their residence or the residence of a relative. LA Unified takes steps to ensure that campuses are safe from the threat of gun violence. Any student found in possession of a firearm on campus is subject to immediate arrest, suspension, and expulsion proceedings. To further our efforts to protect students against firearms, we would like to bring to your attention the legal obligations to protect minors from negligent gun storage. Please see two (2) of the gun storage laws summarized below:

- With very limited exceptions, California makes a person criminally liable for keeping any firearm, loaded or unloaded, within any premises that are under their custody and control where that person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian, and the child obtains access to the firearm and thereby (1) causes death or injury to the child or any other person; (2) carries the firearm off the premises or to a public place, including to any preschool or school grades kindergarten through twelfth grade, or to any school-sponsored event, activity, or performance; **or** (3) unlawfully brandishes the firearm to others.¹
 - **Note:** The criminal penalty may be significantly greater if someone dies or suffers great bodily injury as a result of the child gaining access to the firearm.
- With very limited exceptions, California also makes it a crime for a person to negligently store or leave any firearm, loaded or unloaded, on their premises in a location where the person knows or reasonably should know that a child is likely to gain access to it without the permission of the child's parent/legal guardian, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child, even where a minor **never** actually accesses the firearm.²
- In addition to potential fines and terms of imprisonment, as of January 1, 2020, a gun owner found criminally liable under these California laws faces prohibitions from possessing, controlling, owning, receiving, or purchasing a firearm for 10 years.³
- Finally, a parent/legal guardian may also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person's child or ward.⁴

Safe Storage of Handguns, Los Angeles Municipal Code section 55.21

This City of Los Angeles statute makes it a crime to have a handgun within a residence unless the handgun is stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock approved by the California Department of Justice.

Criminal Storage of a Firearm, California Penal Code section 25100(A)

This State statute makes it a crime to store a loaded firearm on any premises under your control, knowing or reasonably should have known, a child is likely to gain access to the firearm, and the child gains access causing death or great bodily injury.

Feel free to retrieve the full text of the above laws for further details. Thank you for helping to keep our children and schools safe. Remember that the easiest and safest way to comply with the law is to keep firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable.

Very truly yours,

Aaron Piszewicz
Interim Chief of Police

----- CUT HERE AND RETURN TO YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL -----



SAFE GUN STORAGE – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM 2024-2025

Please sign below acknowledging receipt of this information.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

¹ See California Penal Code sections 25100 through 25125 and 25200 through 25220.

² See California Penal Code section 25100(c).

³ See California Penal Code Section 29805.

⁴ See California Civil Code Section 1714.3.