

If someone you know is applying for a gun licence and you think that he or she might be dangerous or threatening, you can ask the police **not** to give him or her a licence.

When someone applies for a gun licence, they have to go through several steps. In the first step, they have to get something called a **“competency certificate”** from the police. It is in this step that you can influence whether or not the police gives that person a competency certificate.

If they don't get a competency certificate, they can't legally own a gun.

If you know someone who already has a gun and you think that person is dangerous, you can ask the police to remove the gun. There is a separate leaflet about this. Call us and we will send it to you.

How can the police help you?

The police do various checks before they give someone a competency certificate.

They check that the person is at least 21 and is a South African citizen, or is legally resident in South Africa. He or she must also prove that they have done training in how to use a gun.

Most importantly, the police check if the person is “suitable” to own a gun. You can tell the police about that person, and whether or not he or she should own a gun. This leaflet explains how on the next page.

Your opinion is very important and the police must listen to you.



Danger in your house

If your partner is violent or threatens you or your family, it is important that he does not get a gun licence. It doesn't matter what his reason is, or whether you are at fault or not. Any violence is illegal, even a slap or verbal abuse. This means you can ask the police **not** to give him a gun licence.

If your partner already owns a gun and you think he is dangerous, you can ask the police to remove his gun. There is a separate leaflet about this. Call us and we will send it to you.

Are you concerned about guns in your area?

We can help you to set up a Gun Free Zone in your area. There are already about 2000 Gun Free Zones in South Africa.

What is a Gun Free Zone?

It's a place where guns are not welcome. It could be:

- a school
- a shebeen
- a clinic
- an office
- a business
- a church
- your house
- almost anywhere!

We provide signs, leaflets and training in how to create Gun Free Zones.

Phone us. We will send you a leaflet and give you advice. We can call you back – just ask!





Call us:

Cape Town
021 686 1302

Johannesburg
011 403 4590

KZN
033 342 6880

www.gunfree.org.za

Is the person suitable to own a gun?

A special police person called a 'Designated Firearms Officer' (DFO) must interview at least 3 people who know the person. The DFO will try to find out, in the past 5 years, if the person is or has:

- been violent
- been a heavy drinker or used drugs
- been mentally unstable
- been convicted of a violent or sexual offence, even if it is against his partner or family
- suffered from depression or emotional problems
- been subject to a 'protection order' under the Domestic Violence Act.
- been divorced or separated, where violence was involved.
- been fired from a job in the last 2 years.

If you know something about any of these checks, you must tell the DFO as soon as possible. You can ask to be one of the three people that the DFO interviews.

Your information may stop the person getting a gun licence.

The police must also check criminal records and the Domestic Violence Register at the person's local police station.



So, what do you need to do?

- Go to your local police station, and ask to speak to the Designated Firearms Officer (DFO).
- Tell the DFO that you know someone who is applying for a gun licence and that you have information about that person's **suitability** to own a gun.
- Show the DFO this leaflet.
- Tell the DFO that you want to be one of the 3 formal interviews that must be done.
- During the interview, tell the DFO everything that you know. Make sure that the information is properly recorded.
- If you have reliable information then the police must **not** give the person a competency certificate.

If you find that this process doesn't work, call us. We will help you. Our numbers are on the back of this leaflet. We can phone you back.

It's not easy to find the courage to go to the police, but you may be saving your own life or someone else's.



Do you know someone who is applying for a gun licence?

IF YOU THINK HE OR SHE MAY BE DANGEROUS OR THREATENING, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STOP THEM GETTING A LICENCE. THIS LEAFLET TELLS YOU HOW.