

If someone you know has a gun and you think that they (or the gun) are dangerous, you can ask the police to remove the gun.

Here are some examples of when a gun is being used **illegally** by its owner or carrier:

- when s/he is threatening you or someone else with the gun. It doesn't matter what the reason is, this is illegal.
- if s/he is your partner and threatens you or your family with the gun when you argue or when he wants you to do something
- if he is or has been violent
- if he is an alcoholic or addicted to drugs
- if he is mentally unstable

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- if he does not have a licence for the gun
- if he does not store the gun properly
- if he has been convicted of a violent or sexual offence, even if it is against his partner.

If someone you know is applying for a gun licence, you can stop him for any of the reasons above. There is a different leaflet about this. Phone us and we will send you one. Our numbers are on the back of this leaflet.

How can the police help you?

The police can use the Firearms Control Act (and sometimes the Domestic Violence Act) to remove the gun from the owner or carrier.

This Act allows the police to declare someone UNFIT to own a gun. There are many reasons why the police can decide that the person is unfit. A person can be declared unfit to own a gun for just one of these reasons.

Here are some of them:

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- You, or someone else, makes a statement to the police that the gun owner is dangerous, giving the reasons.
- If the gun owner is the subject of a 'protection order' under the Domestic Violence Act.
- If the police see someone handling a gun in an illegal way. For example, threatening people or not storing the gun properly.





So, what do you need to do?

Go to your local police station, and ask to speak to someone from the Community Policing Forum (CPF).

Tell the CPF person that someone you know is using a gun dangerously, and you want the police to remove their gun. Show them this leaflet. The CPF person will help you make your statement to the Designated Firearms Officer at your police station.

If there is no CPF person to help you, ask to speak directly to the Designated Firearms Officer at your police station.

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.

Danger in your house

If your partner threatens you with a gun, he is acting illegally. It doesn't matter what his reason is, or whether you are at fault or not. Any threat with a gun is illegal, whatever the reason. This means you can ask the police to remove his gun.

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If your partner owns a gun, he must have a licence for it. Then, when he is in the house, he must either:

- carry his gun in a holster, worn properly on his body or
- keep it in a safe.

He must not put the gun on the table, under the pillow or anywhere else. He may not let your children play with it, threaten anyone (including you and your children) with it or lend it to another person. The gun **must always** remain in the safe or in the holster, worn properly on his body. The Firearms Control Act says that these are the only safe ways to store a gun in your house.

If your partner is not doing this, you can go to the police to ask them to remove the gun.

If your partner is applying for a gun licence and you think he is dangerous, you can ask the police not to grant him a licence. There is a separate leaflet about this. Call us and we will send it to you.



Do you know someone who should not have a gun?

THIS LEAFLET TELLS YOU HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR COMMUNITY.



Call us:

Cape Town
021 686 1302

Johannesburg
011 403 4590

KZN
033 342 6880

www.gunfree.org.za