



INTIMATE PARTNER  
VIOLENCE RESOURCE:

# Firearm Safety

## Preventing Firearm Related Harm or Misuse



### In urgent or life threatening situations, call 911

Police may remove firearms, firearm licences or weapons when they believe someone’s safety is at risk and have reasonable grounds to act under the *Criminal Code*.

### In non-urgent situations with safety risks

You may still contact police for assistance. You can also apply to a provincial or territorial court for:

- Emergency Prohibition Order
- Emergency Limitations on Access Order

### Under Canada’s “Red Flag” law:

- The applicant presents information at a scheduled court hearing
- A judge may take steps to protect the applicant’s identity
- Legal representation is not required
- The respondent is notified only if an order is issued and must surrender firearms, licences, authorizations and registration certificates
- Social support services may assist with the application

### In non-urgent situations with no immediate safety risk

You may report concerns related to:

- Unsafe storage
- Misuse
- Unsafe transportation
- Other firearm related issues

### Contact the Chief Firearms Office of Ontario

**Public Safety Concern Line:** 1-800-731-4000 ext. 7501

**Email:** CFOON@cfp-pcaf.ca

The CFO may conduct a regulatory investigation. Anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

### Understanding the Risk

The presence of a firearm in an intimate partner violence situation significantly increases the likelihood of serious injury or death.

Has your partner ever:

- Threatened to use a firearm against you, your children, or family and friends?
- Threatened to kill themselves?
- Threatened to use a firearm against a pet?
- Used a firearm as a threat to keep you from seeking help?

These behaviours are signs of escalating danger. Seeking support can help protect your safety.

### What is Safe Storage?

Firearms owners with a valid Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) are legally required to store firearms safely. In intimate partner violence situations, firearms may be left unsecured or used to intimidate victims. If firearms in your home are not safely stored, **call 911** or your local police service.

### Non restricted firearms

Owners must either:

- Attach a secure locking device (e.g. trigger lock, cable lock) or remove the bolt so the firearm cannot be fired OR
- Lock the firearm in a cabinet, container or room that is difficult to break into

### Restricted and prohibited firearms

Owners must either:

- Attach a secure locking device and lock the firearm in a cabinet, container or room that is difficult to break into OR
- Lock the firearm in a vault, safe or room built or modified specifically for safe firearm storage

For **automatic firearms**, bolts or bolt carriers (if removable) must also be removed and locked in a separate, secure room.

## Important Support Numbers

### Assaulted Women’s Helpline

Toll-Free: 1-866-863-0511 (24/7, multilingual)  
Text: #SAFE (#7233) from Bell, Rogers, Fido, or Telus mobile phones

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### Seniors Safety Line

Toll-Free: 1-866-299-1011 (24/7)

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### Fem’aide

Toll-Free: 1-877-336-2433  
(French language support, 24/7)

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### Kids Help Phone

Toll-Free: 1-800-668-6868

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### Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Crisis Line

Toll-Free: 1-866-887-0015 (24/7)

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### Ontario Community and Social Services Helpline

Phone: 211

### Talk4Healing

Toll-Free: 1-855-554-4325  
(Indigenous women, 24/7)

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### Victim Support Line

Toll-Free: 1-888-579-2888 (24/7)

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### Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario

Website: [aboriginalshelters.ca](http://aboriginalshelters.ca)  
(Shelter locations and resources available online)

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### Imani’s Place

Toll-Free: 1-800-507-6860  
(Women’s Shelter for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC))

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### Ontario ShelterSafe

Website: [ShelterSafe.ca](http://ShelterSafe.ca)  
(Find shelters across Ontario)