



Firearms in Foster Homes

Last updated: July 26, 2005

A 2004 literature review found that firearm injuries are a leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injury in the United States and that the presence of a household firearm has been found to be associated with an increased risk for homicide, suicide, and unintentional shootings, especially among young people. The review summarizes journal articles published in the past decade that provide estimates of the prevalence of household firearm ownership and storage practices in the United States.ⁱ

A recent study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* concluded that “the four practices of keeping a gun locked, unloaded, storing ammunition locked, and in a separate location are each associated with a protective effect and suggest a feasible strategy to reduce these types of injuries in homes with children and teenagers where guns are stored.”ⁱⁱⁱ

States have a variety of policies regarding firearms in foster homes. We have assembled those we were able to locate here. Specific state regulations are cited following the summary table below. Note that this is not a comprehensive list of all policies.

State reporting no regulation concerning firearms in foster homes:	Pennsylvania	
States with a general safety requirement, with no specific mention of weapons:	Delaware	
States requiring “reasonable protection” from weapons, but no specific requirements:	Hawaii	
States requiring safe storage or locking, but no specific requirements:	Alabama Alaska Arkansas Florida Illinois Indiana Iowa Kentucky Louisiana Minnesota Missouri	New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina Oklahoma Rhode Island South Carolina Texas Virginia West Virginia Wyoming

States requiring foster parents to keep weapons (and other dangerous items) out of reach of children, with specific safety measures spelled out:	Arizona California Colorado Connecticut D.C. Georgia Idaho Kansas Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Montana Nebraska	Nevada New Hampshire North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon South Dakota Tennessee Utah Vermont Washington Wisconsin Wyoming
States discouraging the presence of firearms in the home:	Colorado Connecticut	
No information located:	Mississippi	

Alabama

Alabama Department of Human Resources Social Services Division Administrative Code Chapter 660-5-29 minimum standards for foster family homes

All guns/firearms must be unloaded and shall be kept in a locked storage area that is inaccessible to children. All ammunition for guns/firearms shall be kept in a locked storage area that is separate from the guns/firearms and is inaccessible to children.

<http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/hres/5HRES29.htm>

Alaska

If you have guns in your home and you are a foster parent, you need to use and store your firearms in a responsible way in order to prevent injury to children. The regulations specify that in a foster home, firearms need to be stored unloaded and reasonably inaccessible to children. Ammunition is to be stored separately from the guns and in a place that children cannot access.

If an older foster child is allowed to handle a gun, foster parents must submit a firearm safety plan to the licensing worker for approval. You need to put in writing the age, background, emotional stability and maturity of the children you think are able to learn how to use a firearm. You also need to put in writing how you are going to teach the child how to use the gun safely. You also need to request the child's placement worker to obtain advance permission from the child's parent before letting a child handle a firearm in your home.

Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 50. Community Care Licensing
<http://touchngo.com/lglcntr/akstats/AAC/Title07/Chapter050.htm>

Arizona

A foster parent shall store firearms and ammunition in locked storage which is inaccessible to children. A firearm shall be trigger-locked or fully inoperable while in storage. Ammunition shall be stored in a location separate from firearms.

Arizona Administrative Code R6-5-5839

http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_06/6-05.htm

Arkansas

6.O. B.7. *General Safety Standards*: The home shall be free from physical hazards which would endanger the physical safety of children. This shall be verified by inspection of the entire dwelling, the yard surrounding the house, the basement, the attic (if accessible), the garage or carport and storage area. Specific qualities to check for include: Medicines, cleaning supplies, insecticides, gasoline, hazardous tools, knives, guns, etc., shall be stored out of reach of children or kept in locked closets or drawers. Guns must be unloaded and stored in a secure, locked location separate from ammunition.

Standards for Approval for Family Foster Homes

<http://www.state.ar.us/dhs/chilnfam/FosterFamilies.htm>

California

Medicines, disinfectants, cleaning solutions, poisons, firearms and other dangerous items shall be stored where inaccessible to children. Storage areas for poisons, and firearms and other dangerous weapons shall be locked. In lieu of locked storage of firearms, the caregiver may use trigger locks or remove the firing pin. Firing pins shall be stored and locked separately from firearms. Ammunition shall be stored and locked separately from firearms.

Community Care Licensing Division, Foster Family Homes, Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 9.5

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/getinfo/pdf/ffh3.PDF>

Colorado

The presence of firearms and ammunition is strongly discouraged in any home in which foster children are cared for. Any weapons such as firearms, air rifles, bows, hunting knives or hunting sling shots shall be unstrung and unloaded at all times when foster children are in the home and shall be stored in locked containers out of the reach of foster children. Ammunition and arrows shall be stored in separate locked containers. Firearms which are solely ornamental are excepted from the storage requirement. Weapons shall not be transported in any vehicle in which foster children are riding unless the weapons are made inoperable and inaccessible. Law enforcement professionals are exempted from the requirements of this section if conditions of their employment require them to carry weapons.

Child Care Facility Licensing, 708.22, Physical Requirements for a Safe and Adequate Family Foster Care Home

[http://www.cdhs.state.co.us:8008/CDHS/rule_display\\$.DisplayVolume?p_vol_num=7700](http://www.cdhs.state.co.us:8008/CDHS/rule_display$.DisplayVolume?p_vol_num=7700)

Connecticut

Section 17-145-141 of the CT. General Statutes states: "Firearms or other types of dangerous weapons are discouraged in foster and prospective adoptive homes. The department or child placing agency shall be notified by any foster or prospective adoptive parents if they or a resident in their home possess, prior to licensure or approval or obtained subsequent to licensure or approval, a firearm or other type of dangerous weapon. A foster or prospective adoptive parents shall ensure that: (1) Firearms and ammunitions shall each be locked in separate places inaccessible to all children; (2) whenever practicable, firearms are equipped with a trigger guard lock; (3) other types of dangerous weapons shall be unstrung or unloaded and shall be stored in locked containers out of the reach of children; and, (4) keys to the locked storage area of firearms, other types of dangerous weapons, trigger guards, and ammunition shall be kept in the secure possession of an adult or reasonably secure from children."

Agency Regulations, Section 17-145-141

<http://www.state.ct.us/dcf/Regslaws/REGULATIONS/REGS17a-145-130.htm>

Delaware

A foster home shall be reasonably safe, in good repair and comparable in appearance and maintenance to other family homes in the community. The home and the exterior around the home shall be free from objects, materials and conditions which constitute a danger to the children served.

Requirements for Child Placing Agencies, 5.2.24

http://www.state.de.us/kids/pdfs/occl_regs_cpa.pdf

District of Columbia

A foster parent shall be in compliance with all laws concerning firearms in the jurisdiction in which the foster home is located. Notwithstanding the law in the jurisdictions, all firearms shall be: Stored unloaded and in a locked container that is inaccessible to children; Equipped with and use properly a tamper-resistant mechanical lock or other safety device, that, when properly engaged will render the firearm inoperable by any person other than the owner or other lawfully authorized user; and Stored separately from any ammunition, which shall be stored in locked storage that is inaccessible to children.

D.C. Municipal Regulations, Title 29, Chapter 60, Section 6007.9

http://cfssa.dc.gov/cfssa/frames.asp?doc=/cfssa/lib/cfssa/frames/licensing/foster_home.pdf

Florida

The licensing counselor must inspect the entire premises of the home, including all interior and outdoor areas, for compliance with the licensing standards pursuant to 65C-13.005. Appropriate safety requirements for water hazards, storage of guns and other weapons, cleaning supplies, toxins and alcoholic beverages must be observed. Dangerous weapons must be secured in a location inaccessible to children. Storage of guns must comply with the requirements in Chapter 709.115, Florida Statutes. Weapons and ammunition must be locked and stored separately, and in places inaccessible to children.

A person who stores or leaves, on a premise under his or her control, a loaded firearm, as defined in s. 790.001, and who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parent or the person having charge of the minor, or without the supervision required by law, 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, except when the person is carrying the firearm on his or her body or within such close proximity thereto that he or she can retrieve and use it as easily and quickly as if he or she carried it on his or her body.

Georgia

The importance of gun safety in the home should never be underestimated, especially as it relates to children and youth in the home. Foster parents are required to take extra precaution in seeing that firearms are kept out of the reach of curious children. DFCS requires that firearms in the home are unloaded and kept secured under lock and key or secured with one of the commercial locking devices. Ammunition is always removed from the firearm and kept locked in a separate location. Children, in general, are not allowed to handle any firearm kept in the foster home; this includes hunting rifles also. However, youth 16 years old and above who have successfully completed a hunters education course and have obtained the state required hunter's safety certificate and license may engage in hunting activities with the foster parent or other approved adult.

Examples of the type locking devices that may be employed to protect children from guns

- Trigger Lock- blocks access to the trigger of the gun and prevents the gun from firing. Trigger locks cannot be used on loaded guns. The lock must be removed with a key and then the gun may be loaded, if necessary.
- Lock Box - Locks the gun away and limits accessibility. The box must be unlocked for use. The key should not be accessible to children.
- Plug/Rod Lock - blocks firing and cannot be used on a loaded gun. Lock must be removed to load gun.
- Cable Lock - Prevents ammunition loading and firing.
- Other locks - may lock safely and prevent firing of gun. Can be used on a loaded or unloaded gun and provides the homeowner with instant accessibility to the gun, if needed for safety. (A firearm dealer will be able to identify such a lock.)

Georgia Division Of Family And Children Services Foster Parent Manual

http://www.files.georgia.gov/DHR-DFCS/DHR-DFCS_CommonFiles/16875120FosterParentManual2.pdf

Hawaii

The premises shall be kept in a sanitary and safe condition. There shall be reasonable protection from fire hazards, drugs, poisons, household supplies, dangerous tools, and weapons.

Certification of Foster Family Board Homes for Children, 17-890-44

<http://www.state.hi.us/dhs/17-890.pdf>

Idaho

Firearms at a foster home shall be stored: unloaded and equipped with a trigger lock; or unloaded, fully inoperable and incapable of being assembled and fired; or unloaded and locked in a cabinet or storage container that is inaccessible to children; or locked in a gun safe that is inaccessible to children.

Child Care Licensing Standards and Administrative Code 16.06.02.435

Illinois

Any and all firearms and ammunition shall be locked up at all times and kept in places inaccessible to children. No firearms possessed in violation of a State or federal law or a local government ordinance shall be present in the home at any time. Loaded guns shall not be kept in a foster home unless required by law enforcement officers and in accordance with their law enforcement agency's safety procedures.

Licensing Standards For Foster Family Homes, Section 402.8

<http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/docs/402.pdf>

Indiana

When children are present in the child care home, caregiver shall keep all ammunition and firearms in a locked area that is inaccessible to children at all times.

Indiana Administrative Code, 3-1.1-48, <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/title470.html>

Iowa

Determine whether the family stores fire arms and hunting paraphernalia to make them inaccessible to a child. Fire arms and hunting equipment pose a serious threat to children of all ages. Any equipment such as knives, spears, arrows, bows, and martial art weapons, as well as fire arms and explosives, must be maintained in a secure manner, locked and inaccessible to a child of any age. Note: If special precautions are necessary to protect a particular child, the placing worker should compile these and document them in an agreement which is signed by the agency worker and the foster parent. The foster parent and the licensing file should have a copy of this agreement. Prospective foster parents need to be aware that it is a licensing expectation that the child be protected. It is a requirement of the criminal code that no child aged 14 or older can be given access to fire arms or ammunition without the express permission and direct supervision of the parent or guardian of the child. Iowa Code Section 724.22 specifically addresses that anyone who provides (through sale, loan, gift) or makes available rifles, shotguns, pistols, revolvers or ammunition to anyone under the age of 21 is guilty of a serious misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class "D" felony for the second and subsequent offenses.

Title 12, Chapter B, Foster Family Home Licensing

<http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/policyanalysis/PolicyManualPages/SocialServ.htm>

Kansas

All guns shall be in locked storage or equipped with trigger locks.

Family Foster Home Regulations, 28-4-315

http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/bcclr/regs/familyfosterhome/Family_Foster_Regs.pdf

Kentucky

Kentucky Administrative Regulation 1:350 and Cabinet Policy both state that firearms and ammunition are to be locked and stored in separate locations.

Louisiana

Ammunition and firearms are to be unloaded in separate, locked places inaccessible to children.

Maine

Firearms, including BB guns and air guns shall be rendered inoperable, unloaded and locked up to prevent unauthorized use. Ammunition and projectiles such as arrows, or other items which can be used to make a weapon operable, shall be locked separately. Weapons shall not be transported in any vehicle in which children are riding unless the weapons are made inoperable and inaccessible.

10-148, Ch. 16, Rules Providing For the Licensing of Family Foster Homes for Children, 9.E.
<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/chaps10.htm>

Maryland

A foster parent who maintains firearms in the home shall follow all federal and State laws pertaining to registration, permits, and maintenance of firearms; keep all firearms and ammunition maintained in the home in a locked room or container that is inaccessible to children; take all safety precautions to assure that firearms are not accidentally used to injure children in care; and assure that loaded firearms are not kept in the home unless required because a State, federal, or local law enforcement officer lives in the household and maintains and stores the firearms, in accordance with State, federal, and local law enforcement offices safety procedures.

Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle 02

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/07_Chapters.htm

Massachusetts

Any firearm located in the home shall be licensed and registered in accordance with state law and shall be trigger-locked or fully inoperable, and stored without ammunition in a locked area. Ammunition shall be stored in a separate locked area.

A Guide for Foster and Pre-Adoptive Parents

http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dss/c_fp_ap_guide.pdf

Michigan

Licensing rules were established in accordance with Public Act No. 116 of the Michigan Compiled Law. Foster care policy follows the licensing rules. Firearms shall be trigger-locked or fully inoperable and stored without ammunition in a locked area. Ammunition shall be stored in a separate locked location. A handgun shall be registered. Documentation of the registration of the handgun shall be available for review.

Licensing Rules for Child Placing Agencies, R 400.12416

<http://www.state.mi.us/orr/emi/admincode.asp?admincode=Department&Dpt=HS>

Minnesota

Prior to licensure, the foster home must be inspected by a licensing agency employee using the home safety checklist from the commissioner of Human Services. Checklist requires that weapons and ammunition are stored separately in locked areas.

MN Rules, part 2960.3050, subp. 1

Checklist at: <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Legacy/DHS-0644-ENG>

Missouri

All flammable liquids, matches, cleaning supplies, poisonous materials, medicines, weapons or other hazardous items shall be stored so as to be inaccessible to the children. Foster children shall not be permitted to own or operate firearms or motor vehicles without written authorization from the legal custodian and proper training.

Child Welfare Manual, Foster Family Home Licensing Rules

<http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section6/sec6ch3attachb.pdf>

Missouri is in the process of adding language that prohibits weapons in vehicles transporting and on persons transporting or caring for foster children. This is to address the Missouri conceal and carry law which allows persons with a permit to carry concealed weapons. The agency allows foster parents to obtain the permit, but they may not have the weapons in the car or on their person when a foster child is in their care. The new rules have not yet been through the promulgation and review stage.

Nebraska

Under Nebraska Administrative Code 474 Hazardous Materials and Equipment, the licensee shall ensure that Drugs, cleaning agents, poisons, and other potentially hazardous items are inaccessible to youth; All weapons and firearms are deactivated and locked or stored in a locked cabinet or area; and All ammunition is stored in a locked cabinet and stored separate from the firearms.

The worker will not permit children to maintain in their possession any type of firearm, rifle, shotgun, BB gun or any lethal weapon. Nebraska law states that it is "unlawful for any person under the age of 18 years to possess a pistol, revolver or any other form of short barreled firearm." Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-1204(1).

A ward may be permitted to hunt within Nebraska, only when meeting the following conditions: Successfully completed an approved hunter's safety course and is 16 years of age or older; Has approval of the parent(s), worker and care giver(s); Has obtained a hunting permit; and Is properly supervised by the parent(s) or foster parent(s). The worker will evaluate the following in determining the appropriateness of the ward's taking a hunter's safety course: The ward's maturity and the ward's history of behavior, including any history of violence, assaults or improper use of firearms.

Nebraska Health and Human Services System

Chapter 6-000 Licensing Foster Homes, Group Homes, Child Caring Agencies, and Child Placing Agencies

http://www.sos.state.ne.us/business/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-474/Chapter-6.pdf

Child Welfare and Juvenile Services, Chapter 11
<http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t390.htm>

Nevada

Any weapons, such as firearms, air rifles, bows, hunting knives or hunting sling shots, shall be unstrung and unloaded at all times when children are in the home. They shall be stored in locked containers or rooms out of the reach of children or made inoperable. Ammunition and arrows shall be stored in separate locked containers. Weapons shall not be transported in any vehicle in which children are riding, unless the weapons are made inoperable and inaccessible.

Nevada Administrative Code, Foster Homes for Children
<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-424.html>

New Hampshire

At the time of first home visit or the submission of the application for a license or permit, whichever first occurs, the applicant shall inform the licensing agency if the applicant or other household member possesses any weapon or firearm. All weapons and firearms kept in the foster home shall be kept in a locked cabinet, storage container, or be secured with trigger locks. Ammunition, projectiles such as arrows, and attachments such as bayonets kept in the foster home shall be stored and locked separately from the weapon or firearm. All weapons and firearms shall be secured and inaccessible when carried in a vehicle operated by a foster parent or other household member in which children in care are transported.

He C 6446.09 Residential Child Care Facilities Rules
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/he-C6400.html>

New Jersey

Firearms, other weapons and potentially dangerous implements shall be stored in a locked area out of the reach of children.

Department of Human Services Licensing Laws and Regulations, Licensure of Foster Homes
<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/oof/regulations.htm>

New Mexico

All weapons owned or acquired by a foster family shall be stored and locked with ammunition stored separately.

Licensing Standards for Foster Care
<http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title08/08.027.0003.htm>

Foster parents can have firearms in their home and be licensed but they must disclose the number and type of weapons they have and sign a weapons agreement form which states that they will keep the weapons locked and secured away from children. This is done at the time of initial licensing and reviewed annually.

New York

All firearms, rifles and shotguns, as defined in section 265.00 of the Penal Law, must be securely stored and must be maintained in compliance with applicable State and local standards regarding the licensing, storage and maintenance of such weapons. If foster parents own any firearms, they must store them safely; they must also maintain and license them in accordance with state and local requirements. Foster parents should check with the caseworker if a child in care asks about hunting. Depending on the local district, children in care may need to discuss this with the caseworker and, if approved, notify the caseworker before registering for the Hunter Safety Training Course or buying a hunting license. In some districts, hunting and/or the use of firearms or bow and arrows will only be allowed if the child is accompanied by - and under the direct supervision of - his or her foster parents. Foster parents should also check with local policy if foster children want to buy or receive as a gift any type of firearm (e.g., BB gun, pellet gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol) or archery equipment (bows and arrows).

NYS Foster Parent Manual

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/>

North Carolina

Explosive materials, ammunition and firearms shall be stored separately, in locked places.

Standards and Procedures for Licensure

http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-40/man/CSs1213-04.htm#P271_27919

North Dakota

Firearms must be kept in locked storage or trigger locks must be used, and ammunition must be kept separate from firearms.

North Dakota Administrative Code, Chapter 75-03-14, Family Foster Care Homes

<http://www.state.nd.us/lr/information/rules/admincode.html>

Ohio

Any firearm, air rifle, hunting slingshot or other projectile weapon kept on the grounds of or in a foster home shall be stored in an inoperative condition in a locked area inaccessible to children. All ammunition, arrows or projectiles for such weapons shall be stored in a separate locked space. Any foster caregiver who is also a law enforcement official and can document that their jurisdiction requires them to have ready and immediate access to their weapon shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.

Ohio Administrative Code rule 5101:2-7-12(F)

<http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/oh/lpExt.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&cp=OAC>

Oklahoma

All weapons and firearms shall be kept locked.

Oklahoma Administrative Code, Title 340, Chapter 110, Foster Home Requirements

<http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/>

Oregon

Members of the household who are not law enforcement officers shall store all firearms unloaded and in a locked place and all ammunition in a separate locked place. Trigger locks alone are inadequate. When children in the custody of State Office for Services to Children and Families (SOSCF -- previous name of agency, now Department of Human Services) are being transported in a vehicle, unless being transported by a law enforcement officer, the vehicle must have no loaded firearms and ammunition must be kept in a separate locked container. Members of the household who possess a concealed weapon permit shall: give SOSCF a copy of the permit and a written plan to keep concealed weapons secure from children in SOSCF custody when in the home or in vehicles when transporting a child.

Children in the custody of SOSCF who are hunting or involved in target practice: must be supervised by a responsible adult using only lawful firearms; and must have completed an approved gun safety course (a course with curriculum that is recognized by local law enforcement as appropriate); and must have the written permission of the SOSCF caseworker and branch manager/designee.

Stats. Implemented: ORS 418.005 - 418.640

Resource Management Manual II-B.1, Section 413-200-0338

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_2/ii-b1.htm

Rhode Island

The agency shall be informed if a resident of the household owns or possesses a firearm. Possession or ownership of firearms shall conform to state and local laws. Any firearm, air rifle, hunting slingshot or other projectile weapon shall be stored in an area inaccessible to children. Any ammunition, arrows or projectiles for weapons shall be stored separately from the weapon or firearm in a locked space.

Foster Care Regulations

http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/docs/fc_reg.pdf

South Carolina

Firearms and any ammunition shall be kept in a locked storage container except when being legally carried upon the foster parent's person; being used for educational, recreational, or defense of self or property purposes by the foster parent; or being cleaned by the foster parent.

Code of Regulations, Chapter 114

<http://www.scstatehouse.net/coderegs/c114.htm>

South Dakota

The following hazardous items must be inaccessible to children unless under adult supervision: Firearms, including pellet guns, BB guns, and cap guns; Ammunition; Archery bows and arrows; and Matches and lighters. Firearms must be kept unloaded, in a locked cabinet, and separate from the ammunition. Before a foster child may hunt, the child must successfully complete a hunter safety course approved by the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks under the applicable provisions of chapters 41:06:05 and 41:06:53.

Administrative Rules, 67:42:05:20, <http://legis.state.sd.us/rules/rules/6742.htm>

Tennessee

All firearms, bows and arrows, hunting knives, and weapons of any variety must be secured and locked in a secure gun cabinet or other storage facility. Gun cabinets with glass enclosures or glass doors are not appropriate. Keys to the gun cabinet must be secured in a separate location. Trigger locks must be utilized on all firearms. Ammunition must be stored and locked separately.

Administrative Policies, 16.3

<http://www.state.tn.us/youth/policies/Chapter%2016%20Foster%20Care/16-03%20Desired%20Characteristics%20of%20Resource%20Parents.pdf>

Texas

Before verifying an agency home, the agency must perform an inspection to document that the home meets appropriate minimum standards. Verification must include either that firearms are not and will not be present in the home, or that all appropriate precautions are taken. [See RCCL 99-1.] Explosive materials, firearms, and projectiles such as darts, arrows, and B-B's must be stored out of the reach of children. [See RCCL 99-1.] The home must prove that children could not possibly gain unauthorized or unsupervised access to such substances and weapons. Routine locks will not be considered as 'stored out of children's reach' for adolescent 'street-wise' children if locks can be picked or children can break into locked storage.

DFPS Rules, 40 TAC §720.48 Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/MS-CPA-March-2005.asp

Utah

Administrative Code Section 501-12-8 states that foster parents who have firearms, ammunition, or other weapons shall assure that they are inaccessible to children at all times. Firearms and ammunition that are stored together shall be kept securely locked in security vaults or locked cases, not in glass fronted display cases. Firearms that are stored in display cases shall be rendered inoperable with trigger locks, bolts removed or other disabling methods. Ammunition for those firearms shall be kept securely locked in a separate location. This does not restrict constitutional or statutory rights regarding concealed weapons permits, pursuant to UCA 53-5-701 et seq. Foster parents shall not provide a weapon to a minor or permit a minor to possess a weapon in violation of Sections 76-10-509 through 76-10-509.7.

The licensing office is to identify whether a foster parent possesses or uses a firearm or other weapon, and provide that information to the Division of Children and Family Services.

Section 512-302-4: The agency may consider the out-of-home caregiver's possession or use of a firearm or other weapon, espoused religious beliefs, or choice to school the minor outside the public education system in accordance with Utah Code Section 63-46b-2.1, which states that, except as provided in Subsection (2), no agency may recommend or rule on the custody, placement, including foster placement, of a minor based on the fact that a parent or guardian of the minor lawfully possesses or uses a firearm or other weapon; espouses particular religious beliefs; or schools the minor or other minors outside the public

education system or is otherwise sympathetic to schooling a minor outside the public education system. Subsection (2) states that the previous section does not prohibit a recommendation or ruling based on the compatibility of a minor with a particular custody, placement, or other disposition alternative as determined by the presence of any of those factors.

Administrative Code: <http://www.hspolicy.utah.gov/>

Vermont

Any firearm shall be kept in a locked storage space with ammunition stored separately in a locked space, or shall be incapacitated by means of the locking of essential parts of the firearm or the removal and separate locking of such parts.

Licensing Regulations for Foster Care, 406
<http://www.path.state.vt.us/cwj/publications/>

Virginia

If the family possesses firearms, they shall be stored in locked cabinets or locked areas not accessible to children. Ammunition shall be stored in a locked place separate from the firearms.

Virginia Administrative Code, 22VAC40-130-270
<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+22VAC40-130-270>

Washington

Firearms, ammunition, and other weapons must be kept in locked container, gun cabinet, gun safe, or another storage area made of strong, unbreakable material when not in use. If the storage cabinet has a glass or another breakable front, the guns must be secured with a locked cable or chain placed through the trigger guards. Ammunition must be stored in a place that is separate from weapons or locked in a gun safe. Weapons and ammunition must be accessible only to authorized persons. A child may be allowed to use a firearm only if: the child's social worker approves; competent adults are supervising use; and the youth has completed an approved gun safety or hunter safety course.

Washington Administrative Code, Title 388-148-1090
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wac/index.cfm?fuseaction=title&title=388>

West Virginia

All firearms must be kept properly stored in a locked container inaccessible to children. Ammunition and all other weapons including knives, throwing stars, etc. shall also be stored in a separate locked container out of reach of children.

Foster Care Policy, Foster Care Provider (Homefinding)
http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/foster/policy/FC%20Policy%20Provider%202014.html

Wisconsin

Except as allowed under par. (d), no loaded firearm may be kept in a foster home. No unloaded firearm or other dangerous weapon may be kept in a foster home unless stored and locked in an area not readily accessible to foster children. Ammunition shall be stored and

locked separately from weapons in an area not readily accessible to foster children. This includes bows and arrows, pellet and BB guns, slingshots, etc. Note: A firearm need not be locked in an area not readily accessible to foster children if the firearm has been disassembled in such a manner that it is not operable. Trigger locks alone do not meet the above requirement but may be a supplemental safety measure in addition to the firearm being stored and locked in an area not readily accessible to foster children.

A foster child may be permitted to use firearms or bows for hunting or target practice only if all of the following conditions are met: The child is at least 12 years of age. The child's parent or guardian has given written consent and the child's foster parent and the supervising agency approve. The child has successfully completed an approved hunter education and firearm safety program under s. 29.304, Stats. The child is under the supervision of a responsible adult at all times.

(d) If the foster parent is a sworn law enforcement officer who is required to maintain a loaded weapon at all times, the loaded weapon shall be stored and locked in an area not readily accessible to foster children.

Wisconsin Administrative Code, Ch. HFS 56 Foster Home Care for Children
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/hfs/hfs056.pdf>

Wyoming

All unloaded firearms and ammunition must be stored separately in locked cabinets, and must never be accessible to the children.

Foster Parents Handbook

<http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/ProtectiveSvc/Programs/FosterCare/FosterParentHandbook.htm>

Sources of information include state statutes, policies, and websites and some personal communications. Online sources are indicated, when available.

ⁱ Johnson RM, Coyne-Beasley T, Runyan CW. (2004). Firearm ownership and storage practices, U.S. households, 1992-2002. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 27(2):173-182. Described in MCH Alert (2004, August 27). <http://www.mchlibrary.info/Alert/2004/alert082704.html>

ⁱⁱ Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. (2005). Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional firearm injuries. *JAMA, The Journal of the American Medical Association* 293(6):707-714. Available: <http://jama.amaassn.org/cgi/content/abstract/293/6/707?etoc>