



PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET
Department of Professional Licensing

Andy Beshear
Governor

Jacqueline Coleman
Lieutenant Governor

500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Phone: (502) 564-3296
Fax: (502) 564-4818
<https://dpl.ky.gov/>

Ray A. Perry
Secretary

Kristen R. Lawson
Commissioner

MEDICATION & FIREARMS
SAFE STORAGE AWARENESS

The Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel (“the Panel”) a board within the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet is statutorily charged with the annual task of conducting a comprehensive review of all the child fatalities and near fatalities where there is suspected abuse and neglect. The Panel then makes recommendations to various state agencies to address the underlying problems and issues that were found during its review.

The Panel requested that the Department of Professional Licensing (“DPL”) work with its mental health counselors to engage in providing consistent messaging on the safe storage of medication and firearms to the caregivers of children in their practice. The Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, in response to this request would like to provide both its licensees and the public the following information on the safe storage of medication and firearms around children:

FIREARMS:

Currently, Kentucky has no law that imposes a penalty on someone who fails to secure an unattended firearm and leaves it accessible to an unsupervised minor, even if a child gains access to the firearm and causes an injury or death. Despite this, it is incumbent upon all caretakers of children to engage in the safe storage of firearms. Guns that are not stored safely increase the risk of suicide, homicide, and unintentional injury for household members. The safest way to store a firearm is:

1. Make sure firearms are locked up with a locking device;
2. Keep firearms unloaded;
3. Keep firearms separate from ammunition; and
4. Keep firearms inaccessible to children by utilizing keys and combinations for the locking devices.

MEDICATIONS:

It is important to safely dispose of expired or unused medications as keeping these can pose a danger for children. The following are 6 guidelines for safely storing medications around children:

1. Keep medications up and away in a locked container or medication safe;
2. Keep out of reach from places a child can climb;
3. Know what medications are in your home, including asking guests to put it safely away;
4. Make sure your medications are stored in childproof or child resistant containers;
5. Keep track of how many pills you have in a bottle;
6. Program the Poison Control Center number in your phone: 800-222-1222.