

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING  
THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo, hereby ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide reasonable regulations for the storage of firearms within residences in the unincorporated areas of Yolo County.

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 45,222 firearm-related deaths in the United States in 2020. More than half of firearm-related deaths were suicides, and nearly eight in ten (79%) U.S. murders in 2020 involved a firearm. Having a loaded or unlocked firearm in the home has been associated with an increased risk of firearm-related injury and death, as well as theft of the firearm. Gun theft is a significant contributor to the illegal gun market. The United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) estimates approximately 10% to 15% of stolen guns are used in subsequent crimes.

A firearm stored while loaded or unlocked increases the risk of an accidental shooting, and has been associated with higher risks of suicide. Utilizing gun locks or lock boxes when storing firearms in the home reduces the risk of firearm injury and death, as well as theft. Keeping a firearm locked when it is not being carried ensures that it cannot be accessed or used by others without the owner's knowledge or permission, decreasing the risk that the gun will be used to commit suicide, homicide, or inflict injury. Requiring stored, unsupervised firearms to be secured with gun locks or in a locked container is consistent with historic regulations on the storage of firearms and does not substantially burden the right or ability to use firearms for self-defense. Portable lockboxes with simplex or biometric locks can store loaded handguns such that they are always within easy reach on counters, tables, or nightstands. Such safely stored handguns may be more quickly and easily retrieved for use in self-defense than unlocked handguns hidden away in seldom-used or remote locations.

**SECTION 2. ENACTMENT OF SECTION 5-10.06**

Title 5 (Public Welfare, Morals, and Conduct), Chapter 10 (Weapons) is hereby amended as follows:

**A. Section 5-10.06 (Violations: Penalties) is renumbered to Section 5-10.07.**

**B. Section 5-10.06 is enacted to read as follows:**

**Sec. 5-10-06. Safe Storage of Firearms.**

- a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, the following words and phrases shall be defined as follows:

- (1) “Close proximity and control” means within close reach of a person so that they can gain control of the weapon before a child or unauthorized person could access the weapon.
  - (2) “Firearm” means a firearm as defined in California Penal Code Section 16520, as amended from time to time.
  - (3) “Locked container” means a locked container as defined in California Penal Code Section 16850, as amended from time to time, and is listed on the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms roster of approved firearm safety devices.
  - (4) “Residence” means any structure intended or used for human habitation, including but not limited to houses, apartments, condominiums, rooms, in-law units, accessory dwelling units, motels, hotels, single room occupancy units (SROs), timeshares, mobile homes, and recreational and other vehicles where human habitation occurs.
  - (5) “Trigger lock” means a trigger lock that is listed on the California Department of Justice’s roster of approved firearms safety devices and that is identified as appropriate for that firearm by reference to either the manufacturer and model of the firearm or to the physical characteristics of the firearm that match those listed on the roster for use with the device under California Penal Code Section 23635.
- b) *Safe storage in residences.* No person shall keep a firearm in any residence unless the firearm is stored in a locked container or the firearm is equipped with a trigger lock.
  - c) *Exception.* The storage requirements in this Section shall not apply when the firearm is carried on the person of an individual not prohibited from the ownership or possession of a firearm or when the firearm is in the close proximity and control of such a person.

**SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY**

If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance, and each section, sub-section, sentence, clause, and phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, sub-sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases be declared invalid.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force within 30 days of enactment. Prior to expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage of this Ordinance, it shall be published by title and summary only in the Davis Enterprise or other newspaper of general circulation together with the names of members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced before the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo and, at a further public hearing, said Board adopted this Ordinance on the \_\_\_th day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angel Barajas, Chair  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: Julie Dachtler, Senior Deputy Clerk  
Board of Supervisors

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy (Seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Philip J. Pogledich, County Counsel

By   
Eric May, Senior Deputy