

Firearm Storage Requirements

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses the storage of firearms.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms; and
- sets a criminal penalty in certain circumstances when an individual fails to lawfully store the individual's firearms and the firearm is then accessed by a minor in an unlawful manner.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

76-11-221, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **76-11-221** is enacted to read:

76-11-221 . Failure to secure a firearm resulting in a minor gaining access.

(1)(a) As used in this section:

(i) "Locked container" means a box, case, chest, locker, safe, or similar receptacle that is secured in such a manner so as to prevent an individual from accessing the contents of the container.

(ii) "Minor" means an individual under 16 years old.

(b) Terms defined in Sections 76-1-101.5 and 76-11-201 apply to this section.

(2) An actor commits failure to secure a firearm resulting in a minor gaining access if:

(a) the actor is 18 years old or older;

- 31 (b) the actor stores or leaves a loaded firearm at the actor's residence;
32 (c) the actor knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to obtain possession
33 of the loaded firearm and the minor's possession would be in violation of Section
34 76-11-211, Possession of a dangerous weapon by a minor;
35 (d) the actor does not:
36 (i) keep the loaded firearm in a locked container or in another location that a
37 reasonable person would believe is secure; or
38 (ii) secure the loaded firearm with a trigger lock or other device intended to prevent
39 the use of the firearm;
40 (e) a minor obtains possession of the loaded firearm and the minor's possession of the
41 firearm is a violation of Section 76-11-211, Possession of a dangerous weapon by a
42 minor; and
43 (f) the minor described in Subsection (2)(e):
44 (i) possesses, exhibits, or uses the firearm in a public place; or
45 (ii) draws, exhibits, or unlawfully uses the firearm in violation of Section 76-11-207,
46 Threatening with or using dangerous weapon in fight or quarrel.
47 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is class C misdemeanor.
48 (4) An actor has an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section if the actor took
49 reasonable precautions to ensure that the firearm was properly secured and not
50 accessible to a minor in violation of Section 76-11-211, Possession of a dangerous
51 weapon by a minor.
52 (5) This section does not apply if:
53 (a) a minor obtains a firearm as the result of an unlawful entry to the location where the
54 firearm was located;
55 (b) a firearm is accessed in violation of Subsection (2) but is used in a lawful act of
56 self-defense; or
57 (c) the actor described in Subsection (2) reports to a law enforcement officer that a
58 minor has obtained the actor's firearm.

59 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

60 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.