

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)
Monthly Newsletter for the Durham Community
May 2009

Gun Laws

Transfer of a Firearm to a Minor

If you reside with a minor, own a firearm, leave the firearm in a manner in which it could be discharged, and you knew or should have known that the minor could gain access to the firearm, and as a result the minor gains possession of firearm and uses it to threaten or cause harm, you are guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

The maximum punishment for a Class 1 misdemeanor is more than six months imprisonment.

Federal Law states that if you transfer a firearm to a minor knowing or having reasonable cause to know that the minor intended to carry, possess, or discharge the firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, you will be imprisoned not more than 10 years, fined, or both.

Possession of a Firearm by a Felon

If you have been convicted of a felony (punishment exceeding 1 year) and you own or are in custody of a firearm, you are guilty of a Class G felony.

The punishment for a Class G felony is 15 years imprisonment or fine, or both.

PSN Partner Spotlight: Criminal Justice Resource Center

The mission of the Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center is to provide a wide array of services to criminal justice stakeholders, as well as adult and juvenile offenders. Service delivery is provided in cooperation with various agencies within Durham County such as the juvenile and adult detention center, The Durham Center, the judicial system, other human services organizations, Durham Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP), Durham Public Schools and the NC Department of Corrections.

The department's functions focus on three goals:

- Delivery of quality services so offenders and at-risk youth can become productive, successful citizens.
- Supervision and monitoring of high-risk offenders residing in Durham County to increase public safety.
- Collate and disseminate various information including criminal and treatment histories.

ONE SIMPLE THING YOU CAN DO to Prevent Gun Violence in Your Community: Be Vigilant!

Communicate with your children and know where they are every minute of the day.

Studies show that parents are not aware of children's fascination with guns; therefore, communicate to them the reality of gun violence tying it to your own experiences.

Be aware of all of the societal factors that lead to gun violence like the media, bullying, video games, gangs, drug use, and domestic violence.

Pointers for Parents: Five Things to Teach Children

1. Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons. Don't stand around and form an audience when others are arguing.
2. Learn safe routes for walking in the neighborhood, and know good places to seek help. Know how to contact your parents in the event of an emergency.
3. Learn to work out your problems without fighting. If you're feeling angry toward someone, talk it out, walk away, stick with friends, or speak with a trusted adult. Try to think of some new ways to settle your problems without violence.
4. If you find a gun – stop, don't touch the gun, get away, and tell a grown-up you trust.
5. Report any crimes or suspicious activities to police, school authorities, and parents.

PSN In Your Neighborhood:

May 7 – PSN Gang Awareness Workshop for Parents

May 8 – Cops on Top (Chik-fil-A on Hillsborough Road and Roxboro Road)

May 28 – Community Response Training (Religious Coalition Luncheon)

May 30 – Gang Awareness Summit (El Centro)

Do you need help with an organization or community presentation regarding gun crime and violence? Call the Project Safe Neighborhoods Office at 560-4438 x29230.