

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

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF NAPA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  
ADDING CHAPTER 9.20, ENTITLED “SAFE FIREARM STORAGE,”  
TO TITLE 9 OF THE NAPA COUNTY CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Napa (“County”) does not presently regulate firearm storage within residential locations; and

**WHEREAS**, firearm injuries have a significant adverse public health and safety impact nationally, regionally, and locally; and

**WHEREAS**, improperly stored firearms may result in accidental firearm injuries and/or deaths, particularly in homes with children; and

**WHEREAS**, in California, numerous people die each year from injuries related to firearms, and many more are hospitalized for non-fatal gunshot wounds; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, a firearm stored while loaded or unlocked increases the risk of an accidental shooting, and has been associated with higher risks of suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, quick access to a loaded firearm heightens the risk that a young person’s impulsive decision to commit suicide will be carried out without reflection or seeking help, and that the impulsive attempt will be fatal; and

**WHEREAS**, utilizing gun locks or lock boxes when storing firearms in the home reduces the risk of firearm injury and death, as well as theft; and

**WHEREAS**, 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, whether intentionally or unintentionally; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend the safe storage of firearms; and

**WHEREAS**, both gun control and gun rights activists, including the National Rifle Association, endorse the use of locking devices when storing firearms to ensure that unauthorized and untrained persons cannot access firearms to inflict injury or cause death; and

**WHEREAS**, requiring stored, unsupervised firearms to be secured with gun locks or in a locked container does not substantially burden the right or ability to use firearms for self-defense in the home; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors finds that requiring safe storage of firearms would constitute a sensible safety regulation and would not be unduly burdensome for firearm owners.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Supervisors of Napa County, State of California, ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Recitals. The above recitals are incorporated as though set forth in this section.

**SECTION 2.** Adoption. Chapter 9.20, entitled “Safe Firearm Storage,” containing sections 9.20.010 through 9.20.040, is hereby added to the Napa County Code, to read as follows:

## **Chapter 9.20**

### **SAFE FIREARM STORAGE**

#### **Sections:**

9.20.010	Definitions.
9.20.020	Prohibitions.
9.20.030	Exceptions.
9.20.040	Penalty.

#### **9.20.010 Definitions.**

A. “Firearm” means a firearm as defined in California Penal Code Section 16520, as amended from time to time

B. “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.

C. “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, timeshares, mobile homes, and recreational and other vehicles where human habitation occurs.

D. “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.

**9.20.020 Prohibitions.**

No person shall keep a firearm within any residence unless the firearm is stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock.

**9.20.030 Exceptions.**

A. The requirements of section 9.20.020 do not apply when a firearm is carried on the person of, or is otherwise in the immediate control and possession of, an individual in accordance with applicable local, state, and/or federal laws.

B. This Chapter does not apply when a firearm is carried on the person of, or is otherwise in the immediate control and possession of a peace officer (as defined in California Penal Code sections 830 et seq., as may be amended from time to time).

C. It is not the intention of this Chapter to regulate any conduct if the regulation of such conduct has been preempted by state or federal law.

**9.20.040 Penalty.**

Every violation of this Chapter shall constitute an infraction and shall be punished in accordance with Chapter 1.24.

**SECTION 3.** CEQA. The adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), which provides that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be determined that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, the project is not subject to CEQA. This Ordinance sets requirements for safe storage of firearms in residential locations, and does not propose nor authorize any action or specific project that would have the potential to cause a significant adverse effect on the environment.

**SECTION 4.** Severability. Should any provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful, unenforceable, or otherwise void, that determination shall have no effect on any other provision of this Ordinance or the application of this Ordinance to any other person or circumstance and, to that end, the provisions hereof are severable.

**SECTION 5.** This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days from and after the date of its passage.

**SECTION 6.** A summary of this Ordinance shall be published at least once 5 days before adoption and at least once before the expiration of 15 days after its passage in the Napa Valley Register, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Napa, together with the names of members voting for and against the same.

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced and read at a regular meeting of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, State of California, held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023, and passed at a regular meeting of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, State of California, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:	SUPERVISORS	_____
		_____
NOES:	SUPERVISORS	_____
ABSTAIN:	SUPERVISORS	_____
ABSENT:	SUPERVISORS	_____

NAPA COUNTY, a political subdivision of the  
State of California

\_\_\_\_\_  
BELIA RAMOS, Chair of the  
Board of Supervisors

<p>APPROVED AS TO FORM Office of County Counsel</p> <p>By: <u>Silva Darbinian</u> Deputy County Counsel</p> <p>By: <u>/s/ Brandon Aguilera</u> Code Services</p> <p>Date: <u>September 6, 2023</u></p>	<p>APPROVED BY THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p> <p>Date: _____ Processed By: _____ Deputy Clerk of the Board</p>	<p>ATTEST: NEHA HOSKINS Clerk of the Board of Supervisors</p> <p>By: _____ _____</p>
--	--	--

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ORDINANCE ABOVE WAS POSTED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE BOARD IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 1195 THIRD STREET ROOM 310, NAPA, CALIFORNIA ON \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, DEPUTY  
NEHA HOSKINS, CLERK OF THE BOARD