

Child Injury Laws *Blog*

Rash Of Household Gun Injuries Demonstrates Need For Restricting Childrens' Access

Posted by [Jonathan Rosenfeld](#) on December 13, 2010

There are all too many news stories about accidental gun shootings involving children. The recent Supreme Court ruling in [McDonald vs. Chicago](#) determined that cities and states cannot abridge citizens' 2nd Amendment right to keep handguns in their home for protection.

According to a UCLA law professor and physician, this [decision](#) may increase the risk of accidental injury, death, homicide, and suicide for people who live in or visit a home where a gun is kept.

There are more than 30,000 gun deaths and 60,000 gun violence injuries each year. Chicago in particular suffers from excessive gun violence as seen in the following stories:

- In January 2010, an [8-year old Niles girl](#) and her brother were playing with toy guns when he pulled out a .25 caliber semi-automatic shotgun and shot her in the face. The girl survived.
- In August 2010, two twin [5-year-old Chicago boys](#) were playing in their bedroom when they found a gun. One boy accidentally shot and killed his brother. A 17-year-old relative was charged with endangering a child-causing death because he brought the gun into the home.
- Later in August 2010, an [8-year-old Dolton boy](#) was playing with a handgun with his 11-year-old brother in their home when he was accidentally shot and killed.
- In September 2010, a [12-year-old Roseland boy](#) was playing with a 20-gauge shotgun when he was accidentally shot in the face and killed. A family member bought the shotgun to protect the family from neighborhood violence. Although the gun was kept locked up, the boys were apparently able to find a key.
- Most recently, a [13-year old Rogers Park boy](#) was shot in the leg with a small-caliber handgun when his friend was showing him a gun. The boy is recovering.

Jonathan Rosenfeld offers legal services relating to: birth injuries, medical malpractice, day care abuse, foster care abuse, swimming pool injuries, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, dog bites, food poisoning, product liability, amusement park accidents and clergy abuse. For more information please visit Child Injury Laws Blog (<http://www.childinjurylaws.com/>) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

In 2004, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP) concluded that if you have children, it is safer not to have a gun in the home. The [Chicago Memorial Hospital](#) also provides firearm safety tips.

The best way for parents to protect their children is by not purchasing a gun, removing all guns from home, find out if there are guns in the homes where their children play, and talk to their children about the dangers of guns. Despite the warnings, [more than a third](#) of U.S. households keep a gun in the home.

Clearly, if people are going to keep guns in homes where children live or visit, strict gun safety rules should be observed. Guns should be [properly stowed](#) – keep guns locked and unloaded, keep ammunition locked in a separate location, and hide the keys.

The National Rifle Association's (NRA) [Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program](#) teaches children about gun safety. The program instructs children that if they see a gun, they should stop, don't touch, leave the area, and tell an adult. However, studies suggest that children have trouble resisting the temptation to touch guns, even if they were taught not to touch guns. Parents should further advise children that guns are not toys, that they should never touch the trigger, and that they should never point a gun at anyone.

The most effective way to protect your children against gun violence is not to keep guns in the home. However, if you are going to keep a gun in the home, you should take every precaution possible to prevent your children from getting a hold of the gun because accidental gun injuries are dangerous and often deadly.

Sources:

[Kids Health: Gun Safety](#)

[The Huffington Post: Niles Girl, 8, Accidentally Shot in Face By Teen Brother](#)

[Chicago Examiner: Teen, 17, Charged in Accidental Shooting Death of 5-Year-Old Twin Boy](#)

[Chicago Breaking News Center: Roseland Boy Dies After He and Brother Find Shotgun](#)

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[Chicago Breaking News Center: Boy Accidentally Shoots Friend While Showing Off Gun](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics: Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population](#)

[University of Michigan Health System: Gun Safety for Kids and Youth](#)

[Los Angeles Times: Supreme Court's Gun Ruling May Be Prescription For Juries and Death, Legal Expert Says](#)

[NRA; Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program](#)

[Children's Memorial Hospital: Firearm Safety Tips](#)

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