



THE RISKS OF CARRYING
A GUN

GUN CONTROL



TO GET YOU THINKING...

Johannesburg - A Centurion man accidentally shot dead his young daughter on Friday morning when their house was broken into, Gauteng police said. Lieutenant Colonel Lungelo Dlamini said the man was woken by a commotion at his house on Glover Street. "He went upstairs to fetch his firearm and while he was there, he heard the commotion again near the door. He fired a shot which hit and injured his... daughter," said Dlamini. "She was taken to hospital in a critical condition, where she died. We have opened a case of culpable homicide."

Dlamini said the five robbers fled the premise with a handbag, which belonged to the man's wife. No arrests had been made. Beeld newspaper reported that the father had heard dogs bark, went downstairs to investigate and spotted a robber in the house, in the early hours of Friday morning. He ran back up to his bedroom, slammed the door and took his firearm from the safe. At that stage, his 8-year-old daughter had woken up and wanted to go into her parent's bedroom. When she turned the door knob, her father thought it was one of the intruders and fired a shot. He opened the door and found her lying there. According to Beeld she had been shot in the head.

Article: [Dad accidentally kills daughter in robbery](#)

 **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

If there was no gun present, would the family have been more at risk of harm from the intruders?

Do you think that the father's emotional or mental health had anything to do with him shooting his daughter accidentally?

What could the father have done differently to avoid shooting his daughter through the door?

REMEMBER

You may only shoot at a target that is in your sight (this would include an animal, etc) – that means you may not shoot through a closed door or into the bush unless you have seen your 'target' and know what it is that you are shooting at.

The solution to gun crime is not more guns.

In South Africa there are high levels of violent crime, and people feel under threat. However, getting a gun is not the answer. As citizens we can demand that our police be much better at gathering intelligence and disarming criminals. That is their job, not ours.

LAWS YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN CARRYING A GUN

Carrying legally owned firearms in South Africa is allowed under all licence types and does not need an additional permit.

However, no person may carry a gun in public unless, in the case of:

- **a handgun (i.e. revolver or a pistol):** it is in a holster or similar holder designed, manufactured or adapted for carrying a handgun and attached to his or her person; or it is in a rucksack or similar holder.
- **any other gun:** it is in a holder designed, manufactured or adapted for the carrying of the firearm. A shotgun for example, usually requires a case.

Places where you cannot carry a gun:

- The Control of Access to Public Premises and Vehicles Act of 1985 (CAPPVA) in South Africa, does not allow private guns in government buildings.
- The Firearms Control Act of 2000 (FCA) allows for Firearm Free Zones, but this law must not be confused with the mandate of the CAPPVA which made all government buildings and vehicles gun-free by law.
- According to the FCA under section 140, gun-free zones can be applied for and must be granted gun-free status by the relevant Police Minister.

Source: [Wikipedia Firearms legislation](#)

DEFINITIONS

WHAT IS A GUN FREE ZONE?

A Gun Free Zone is a space in which no guns are welcome or allowed. It limits who can carry a gun where.

- In South Africa, private guns are prohibited, by law, in government buildings according to the Firearm Control Act of 2000.
- In South Africa, legal gun owners can carry their gun publicly as long as it is partially or completely covered and in a gun holster.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GUN FREE ZONES

- Some Gun Free Zones are enforced through the use of metal detectors and providing safe storage
- Others are enforced through community buy-in and trust

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT GUN FREE ZONES?

Every day people make use of their right to restrict those entering a space they own or manage; they do it with smoking, liquor and food. The same can be done with guns.

The law of right of admission allows you to exclude anyone carrying a gun into a Gun Free Zone that you own or manage.

It is a civil offence to violate the Gun Free Zone status of a place – anybody found breaking the rules of a Gun Free Zone can be prosecuted under laws that prohibit trespassing.

The Criminal Procedure Act clearly states that you may only shoot another person when your life is under direct threat.

DID YOU KNOW?

Carrying a concealed handgun increases the chances of a confrontation turning violent. Someone carrying a gun for self-defense is **4.5 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE SHOT** during an assault than an assault victim without a gun.



GUN FREE SOUTH AFRICA RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ONE OF THE MOST COMMON PLACES THAT COPS LEFT THEIR GUNS WAS ON THE TOILET CISTERN.



It's difficult to work out how many illegal guns there are. There are rumours that cops rent out their guns, and that guns from police evidence rooms (SAPS 13 STORES) are rented out or stolen.

CRIMINALS ARE MORE LIKELY TO CARRY A GUN IF THEY SUSPECT THAT VICTIMS MAY ALSO BE ARMED.

REPORTS REVEAL THAT CRIMINALS MAY CARRY GUNS TO STOP VICTIMS FROM RESISTING.

According to the Small Arms Survey, the exact number of civilian-owned guns is impossible to know because of the fact that many guns are unregistered, or are part of the illegal gun trade and global conflict such as war.

YOUR RISK OF BEING MURDERED DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU LIVE.

SEA POINT POLICE STATION REPORTED 37 MURDERS FROM APRIL 2003 TO MARCH 2012. IN THE SAME PERIOD, NYANGA POLICE STATION REPORTED NEARLY 2,300 MURDERS, THE HIGHEST OF ANY POLICE STATION IN THE COUNTRY.

THERE IS A STRONG LINK BETWEEN LIVING IN A POOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE RISK OF BEING MURDERED.

MANY STOLEN GUNS ARE NEVER RECOVERED. WHEN THEY DO RESURFACE, IT'S OFTEN IN CONNECTION WITH A CRIME OR IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE LEGALLY BARRED FROM POSSESSING ONE

Source: Gun owners at risk of gun theft
 Gun debate
 So you want a gun?
 Concealed guns
 Gun ownership does not protect
 Violence policy center (VPC)

MYTHBUSTERS

MYTH

Guns don't kill people — people kill people

Keeping a gun at home makes you safer than not having a gun in the home

Carrying a gun for self defense makes you safer

Guns make women safer

FACT

People with access to more guns tend to kill more people with their guns. In America, gun death rates are generally lower in states with restrictions such as safe-storage requirements or assault-weapons bans.

Source: [Concealed Guns](#)

Research shows that having a gun for self defence does not ensure your safety. Keeping a gun in the home is risky and has resulted in domestic violence, accidental discharge, mistaken identity shootings, children setting it off and the risk of suicide. An unintended consequence is that you could feed the illegal market if your gun is stolen from you.




There's a difference between feeling safe and being safe. Having a gun does not make you safe, and having it in your home creates a risk.

In 2013, more than 5 times more women were shot by husbands, boyfriends and ex-partners than murdered by male strangers.

Source: [Gun Myths Fact Check](#)

DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT GUN CONTROL

<p>These questions can help guide your radio shows and outreach.</p> <hr/> <p>They are like angles to the bigger topic of the risks of carrying a gun.</p>	<p>You have many examples of how to develop your outreaches and radio shows from previous guides. Use them to expand on some of the angles below.</p>
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-  **What are the risks of carrying a gun?**
-  **How can a Gun Free Zone benefit our community?**
-  **What are the ways to keep yourself safe and secure without carrying a gun?**