

Death of a Firearm Authority Holder

Purpose of This Information Sheet

- This information sheet explains what families, executors, administrators and other people involved in a deceased estate need to do when the estate includes a firearm, or related thing.
- It outlines the steps required to ensure firearm(s), major firearm parts and ammunition are managed safely, securely and lawfully while the estate is being administered and finalised.

What to Do First

- Following the death of a firearm authority holder, Licensing Services must be contacted as soon as practicable.
- Licensing Services will confirm the deceased authority holder's details, identify any firearm(s) recorded against the licence, discuss who is responsible for managing the estate and provide advice about the next steps.

Contact Licensing Services

- Phone: 1300 171 011
- Email: LicensingServices@police.wa.gov.au
- You do not need to have all documents or information available before making first contact.
- If there is an immediate safety risk, an unsecured firearm, or an emergency situation, call 000.
- Do not handle, move, transport or store firearm(s) unless you have the appropriate authority, permit or advice from Licensing Services or police.

How Licensing Services Can Assist

- Licensing Services will guide you through the process and explain:
 - What information may be required;
 - Whether another person holds a shared authority for any of the firearm(s);
 - Whether the firearm(s) can remain in their current storage arrangement;
 - Whether the firearm(s) need to be stored by a licensed firearm(s) storage facility or another person who is authorised to possess the firearm(s); and
 - The available options for transfer, sale, disposal or destruction.
- If police have already attended following a death and have secured or taken possession of the firearm(s), Licensing Services will provide advice about the next steps.

Information Licensing Services May Request

- As information becomes available, Licensing Services may request:
 - Your full name, contact details and relationship to the deceased;
 - The full name and contact details of the executor or administrator, if known;
 - The deceased person's full name, date of birth and firearm authority number, if known;
 - A copy of the death certificate, if available;
 - A copy of the will, grant of probate or letters of administration, if available;
 - Details and location of any firearm(s), major firearm parts or ammunition, if known; and
 - The intended outcome for the firearm(s), if known.
- If some information is not yet available, Licensing Services will advise what is required and when it should be provided.

Storage and Movement of Firearm(s)

- Do not move firearm(s) before seeking advice from Licensing Services.
- The appropriate storage arrangement will depend on the circumstances of the estate and whether another person is authorised to possess the firearm(s).
- Where multiple firearm authorities apply to some or all firearms, Licensing Services will contact the other authority holders to have the firearm(s) transferred into their possession.
- In other circumstances, firearm(s) may need to be stored by a licensed firearms storer while the estate is being administered. Any storage costs are payable by the executor or administrator of the deceased estate.

Transfer and Disposal Options

- Depending on the circumstances, firearm(s) from a deceased estate may be:
 - Transferred to an appropriately authorised person;
 - Transferred through a licensed firearms dealer;
 - Sold through a licensed firearms dealer;
 - Rendered permanently innocuous by an appropriately licensed firearms manufacturer or licensed firearms repairer; or
 - Surrendered under amnesty.
- Licensing Services will explain which options are available and any requirements that apply.

Timeframes

- Licensing Services will generally ask the person responsible for managing the estate to decide, within one (1) month of being advised of the available options, what will happen to the firearm(s).
- If additional time is required because the estate has not been finalised, information is outstanding or the estate is subject to dispute, advise Licensing Services as early as possible.
- If no action is taken, Licensing Services may issue a formal notice providing an additional one (1) month to decide what will happen to the firearm(s).
- If the notice is not complied with, entitlement to the firearm(s) may cease and the firearm(s) may be seized and destroyed in accordance with the legislation.

Important Note

- A person may inherit ownership of a firearm; however, inheritance does not authorise possession.
- A beneficiary must hold the appropriate firearm authority before they can lawfully possess the firearm.

References to Legislation

Legislation	Relevant Provision
<i>Firearms Act 2024</i>	Section 134
<i>Firearms Regulations 2024</i>	Regulation 216
<i>Criminal and Found Property Disposal Act 2006</i>	Section 19