

Illinois' [Safe Gun Storage Act](#) (effective Jan. 1, 2026) requires gun owners to store firearms in a locked container or otherwise inaccessible to unauthorized users (minors, at-risk, prohibited persons), with violations leading to potential fines, especially if a minor or at-risk person gains access, even resulting in criminal charges if used in a crime. The law also mandates lost/stolen firearms be reported within 48 hours and promotes public awareness through health campaigns.

Key Requirements:

- **Secure Storage:** Guns must be in a securely locked container or a location inaccessible to minors, at-risk individuals (e.g., those with certain mental health conditions), or prohibited persons, unless lawfully permitted.
- **Reporting Lost/Stolen Firearms:** Owners must report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement within 48 hours.
- **Public Awareness:** The Illinois Department of Public Health runs a campaign to educate the public on safe storage.

Who Must Comply:

- Any firearm owner storing a gun in a location where a minor, at-risk person, or prohibited person could access it without permission.

Penalties for Violations:

- **Civil Fines:** Up to \$500 for violations.
- **Increased Fines:** Up to \$1,000 if a minor, at-risk person, or prohibited person obtains the firearm.
- **Criminal Charges:** Up to \$10,000 if such a person uses the firearm to kill or injure someone while committing a crime.

Context:

- This law (SB 8) expands on existing safe storage rules by adding stricter requirements and penalties, with recent effective dates in 2025/2026.