

We're sure you've got some questions...

? 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.

? WHY MAKE YOUR SPACE A GUN FREE ZONE?

GUN FREE ZONES reduce the risk of gun death and injury. Guns are small, light and easy to use; simply pulling a trigger can kill or badly injure someone. When there are no guns in a space, it becomes safer and more secure for everyone in it.

? ARE THERE DIFFERENT KINDS OF GUN FREE ZONES?

There are different types of GUN FREE ZONES. Some are enforced by metal detectors and providing safe gun storage, while others are enforced through community buy-in and trust.

Enforced by declaration: People entering a GUN FREE ZONE are asked to declare if they have a gun or are searched. Anyone with a gun is not allowed to enter the premises with their gun (*examples are banks, government departments and soccer stadiums*).

Enforced by trust: Signs tell people entering a GUN FREE ZONE that the space is gun free. People entering this type of GUN FREE ZONE are not asked to declare if they are carrying a gun and are not searched. While guns are not taken away from people, they know that guns are not welcome (*examples are places of worship*).

? ARE GUN FREE ZONES LEGAL?

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.

Live free by going gun free!

Contact GFSA for advice and resources to help you make your space a **GUN FREE ZONE**.

CALL **071 876 1135**

EMAIL info@gfsa.org.za

www.gfsa.org.za



Take action against gun violence by declaring your space a **GUN FREE ZONE**. Your home, the place you work or study in, where you worship, play sport or meet friends are all spaces that can become *gun free* places where you can leave your fear at the door.

Since 1994, Gun Free South Africa has worked with organisations and communities to help them make their spaces safe by not allowing guns. Over the years we have developed a 4-step model to make spaces **GUN FREE ZONES**:

STEP 1 ESTABLISH THE VISION

The success of declaring a space a **GUN FREE ZONE** depends on the buy-in and commitment of that space's stakeholders (staff, clients, neighbours, etc) to building a safe environment. It is not enough to just put up **GUN FREE ZONE** signs. Consult with important stakeholders that use the space to establish a **GUN FREE ZONE** vision. A vision puts into words what you want to achieve by making your space gun free. Doing this will:

- ✓ **Create a common vision.**
- ✓ **Involve key stakeholders.**
- ✓ **Secure buy-in** from everyone to achieve this vision.



STEP 2 DEVELOP THE POLICY

When developing your **GUN FREE ZONE** policy, answer these questions:

- ? **"How will people know that the space is gun free?"**
You could put up signs and include this information on all communication.
- ? **"How will I know if someone has a gun?"**
You could ask people to declare if they have a gun, or install metal detectors.
- ? **"What will happen if someone tries to enter a GUN FREE ZONE with a gun?"**
As the owner or manager of a GUN FREE ZONE you can choose to:
 - 1) provide safes in which a gun owner can store his gun, as long as nobody else can access it;*
 - 2) tell a gun owner that he can only enter the premises if he does not have his gun with him; and/or*
 - 3) allow a gun owner into the GUN FREE ZONE on the understanding that he is going against policy, and to leave his gun at home next time.*

STEP 3 PUT THE POLICY INTO PRACTICE

Once the policy has been adopted, the following needs to be done:

- 1. Bring in key stakeholders:** This includes all users of the space as well as stakeholders in the wider community like local police and community policing forum representatives. This helps get buy-in to the vision, (which is vital for the successful implementation of a **GUN FREE ZONE**) and address concerns.
- 2. Train staff** that will be responsible for implementing the policy.
- 3. Develop, distribute and install required material** like signs, registers and monitoring equipment (if used) e.g. metal detectors or safes.
- 4. Run awareness campaigns** for users of the space.

STEP 4 MAINTAIN AND MONITOR

Maintaining and monitoring a **GUN FREE ZONE** means:

- **Ongoing awareness.**
- **Regular reviews** to identify problems so these can be addressed.
- **Tracking impact**, e.g. are fewer people trying to bring guns into your space? Have incidents of violence declined?