

GRIFFITHS PARRY
LAWYERS & NOTARY

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INSIGHT

Firearms and your Estate

Lawful handling of firearms
after death in Queensland

When a firearm owner dies in Queensland, firearms do not automatically pass to family.

Planning ahead helps keep people safe, avoids offences, and ensures firearms are dealt with lawfully and as intended.

Who can possess firearms?



Only appropriately licensed people can possess firearms, even after death.


Unlicensed family members cannot hold or store firearms, even temporarily, without breaching Queensland weapons laws.



Using your Will properly

A Will that specifically gifts each firearm to a named, licensed Beneficiary can simplify transfer.

In many cases, this avoids the need for a separate Permit to Acquire during estate administration.



What happens immediately after death

The Executor or next of kin should promptly notify QPS Weapons Licensing.

This starts the lawful process for storage, transfer, sale, or surrender of firearms in the Estate.

Safe storage during administration

Firearms can be held temporarily by a licensed person for up to six months.

Licensed dealers or armourers can store firearms longer while transfers or sales are arranged.

Heirloom firearms option

If a firearm is sentimental only, a Beneficiary may apply for a collector (heirloom) licence.

The firearm must be permanently inoperable and stored under strict conditions.

Amnesty as a safety net



Unregistered or unwanted firearms can be surrendered under Australia's permanent amnesty.

In Queensland, surrender is free and protects people handing firearms in from prosecution.

Risks of no plan

**Without clear instructions,
families risk serious offences.**

This includes unsafe handling, theft, or permanent loss of firearms through surrender or destruction.

Practical steps to take now

- List each firearm
- Confirm suitable licensed Beneficiaries
- Update your Will
- Nominate a safekeeping contact
- Resolve any unregistered items

Clear planning reduces stress for those left behind.

This carousel provides general information only.

It is not legal advice and should not be relied on as a substitute for professional advice. If you need advice about your specific circumstances, you can contact our Estates team.

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