

INSIGHT

# Firearms and your Estate

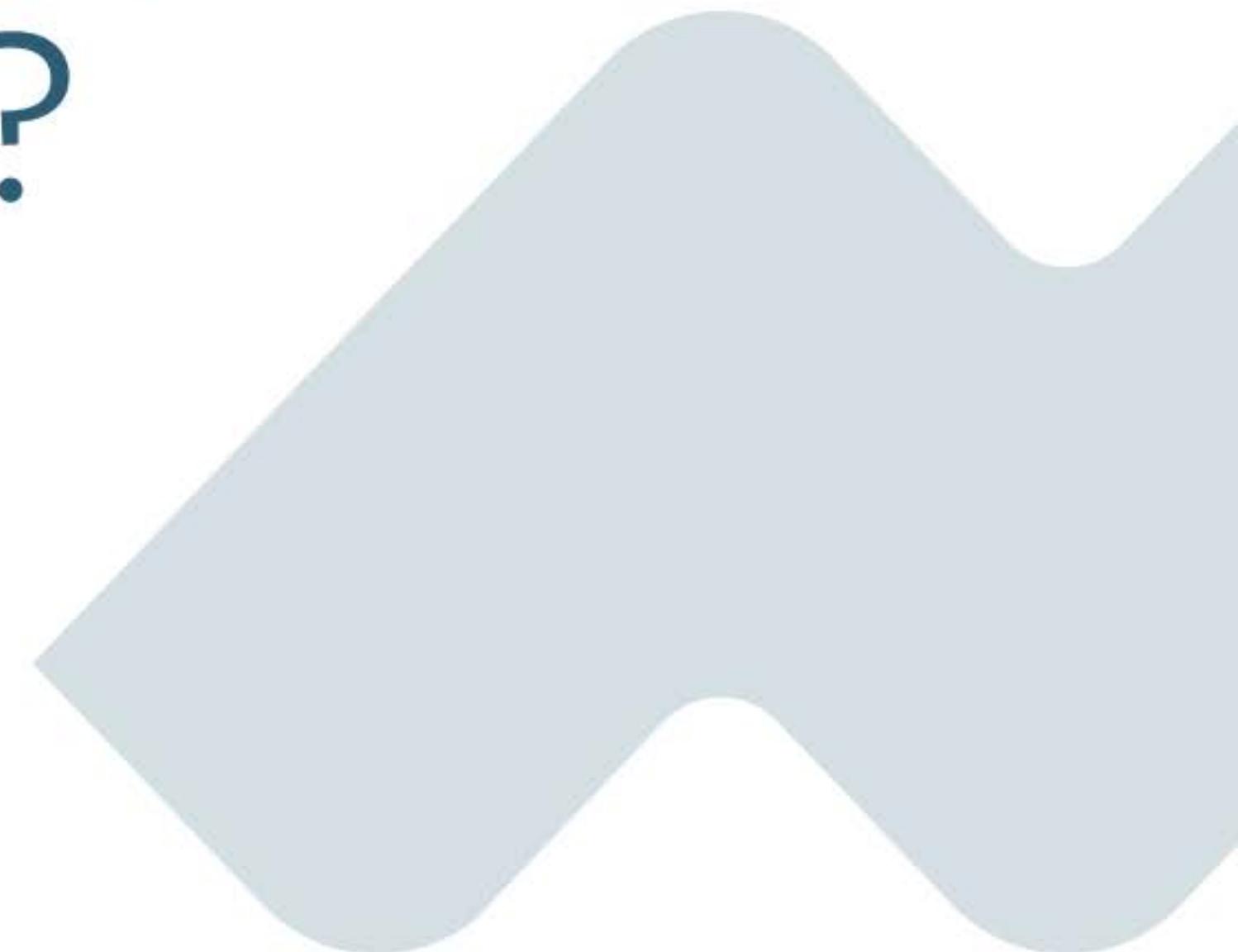
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Lawful handling of firearms  
after death in Queensland

## **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



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**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

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**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

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**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.

07 5390 1400  
[enquiries@gplaw.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gplaw.com.au)