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**School Safety and Security: Preventing Access to Weapons by Children**



Current Reality: Responsible gun owners secure their weapons to keep young children safe. The current Code section makes it difficult to hold irresponsible gun owners accountable when their unsecured weapons are possessed and even transported to school by children because the threshold in the Code is to “recklessly” leave a loaded, unsecured firearm. While elementary age children are far to young to have any access to an unsecured firearm, they are capable of loading one when ammunition is also unsecured.

RCPS recommends the General Assembly:

***Revise*** §18.2-56.2 (A) Allowing access to firearms by children

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to ~~recklessly~~ leave a loaded *or unloaded*, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any child under the age of fourteen. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.