

**A dementia diagnosis can be difficult to handle but there are resources available for you if you need support.**

Please visit the Alzheimer's Association for more information on local support groups, community events, and additional resources: [alz.org](http://alz.org)

### **Contact Us**

For more inquiries, visit our website:  
**[safetyindementia.org](http://safetyindementia.org)**

Or our partners at the Colorado Firearms Safety Coalition:  
[coloradofirearmssafetycoalition.org](http://coloradofirearmssafetycoalition.org)



**SAFETY**  
in dementia

## **Firearms Access and Dementia**

[safetyindementia.org](http://safetyindementia.org)

Colorado Firearm  
Safety Coalition

# Safety Starts With You Let's Talk about Dementia

## Caring for Someone with Dementia is Hard

There are physical, emotional, financial, and lifestyle changes to face. Thinking about firearm safety during this time can prevent injuries and deaths. Now's the time to make choices and plans so you can stay in charge and avoid tragedy.

## Dementia & Firearms: Safety Concerns

Dementia is a progressive brain disease that can lower person's ability to safely handle firearms because of:

- Bad judgement
- Memory loss and confusion
- Difficulty understanding situations and surroundings
- Impulsive behavior
- Trouble recognizing friends and family

No matter how much experience a person has with firearms, cognitive impairment affects the ability to judge safe and unsafe situations and behaviors when using a firearm.

## Remember: It's not the person, it's the disease

It can be hard to imagine a loved one being a danger to themselves or others. It's important to remember that dementia is the cause of some of these unsafe behaviors – not the person.

When in doubt, trust your instincts. If it doesn't feel right, it's time to take action and safeguard your home & secure your firearms for you and the person with dementia.

## Safety Checklist

If you have firearms and someone living with dementia in your home, please consider:



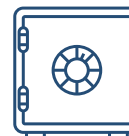
**Safe and Secured** Do you know where all the firearms are located? Are these firearms properly stored and secured?



**Access** Does the person with dementia have access to any of these firearms?



**Conversations** Have you had any conversations about firearm safety since the dementia diagnosis? If the person with dementia owns firearms, have you discussed what he/she wants to do with them in the future?



**Storage Options** Have you considered any options to store these firearms outside of the home?