NSW Police Force

Firearms Registry

Disclosure of Information by Health Professionals

This FACT sheet provides information on the notification process for health professionals where the health professional is of the opinion that a person they are treating may pose a risk to public safety or the person's own safety if in possession of a firearm or prohibited weapon.

What does the legislation provide?

Section 79 of the *Firearms Act 1996* and section 38 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* provide protection from civil or criminal liability that may otherwise arise, including a breach of any duty of confidentiality, when a health professional discloses information about a person they are treating to the Commissioner of Police.

What is meant by a health professional?

A health professional, is defined in S79 (3) of the *Firearms Act 1996* as any of the following:

* A medical practitioner, or
* Psychologist, or
* Nurse or social worker, or
* A professional counsellor.

The above definition of a health professional also applies for the purpose of section 38 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*.

Where do I access the form?

The notification form is attached to this FACT Sheet. A link to this FACT Sheet and Form can be found on the Firearms Licences page on the Firearms Registry website or by phoning the Firearms Registry.

Under what circumstances would the health professional notify the Commissioner?

It is a matter of exercising your discretion once an opinion is formed.

For example, if you are treating a person and that person has made threats of self harm or harm to others, or you have reason to believe that person may be a risk to their own safety or public safety if in possession of a firearm or prohibited weapon, you should notify the Commissioner of Police.

You may be aware that the person either holds a firearms licence or has access to firearms or prohibited weapons.

Or, the person may have threatened harm with a firearm/prohibited weapon. Reporting to the Commissioner allows police and the Firearms Registry to check if the person holds a firearms licence or if there are firearms or weapons kept at their address. The Firearms Registry and the police can then take the appropriate action.

How does the health professional notify the Commissioner?

Complete the notification form and email to the police station nearest the residential address of the person. The form must also be emailed to the Firearms Registry.

The Firearms Registry treats all notifications of this nature as a priority and will liaise directly with police. If the notification is urgent call 000.

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What will the police do?

Police will check to see is the person holds a firearms licence/permit and has possession of firearms or prohibited weapons. Police will also check to see if there are firearms or prohibited weapons stored, by other persons, at that address.

If the person does not hold a firearms licence or permit and there are no firearms or prohibited weapons at the address, police may take no action except to satisfy themselves of the safety of all concerned.

If the person does not hold a licence or permit but there are firearms or prohibited weapons stored by another licence/permit holder at the address, police will need to be satisfied that the firearms/prohibited weapons are secure and that no unauthorised access is possible.

If the person does hold a firearms licence or permit, that licence or permit may be suspended and the firearms/prohibited weapons seized as a public safety precaution.

What happens if the person has their licence or permit suspended and Firearms Registry firearms/weapons seized?

Suspension of a licence or permit is temporary. It is usually in response to an urgent situation where firearms/prohibited weapons need to be seized. Once suspended, a person may be requested to provide an opinion from a doctor, either a GP or specialist, to determine if the person may continue to hold a firearms licence/permit or if the person should have their licence or permit revoked.

The determination and decision on the course of action to be taken is made by the Firearms Registry. All consideration is given and the matter is handled in a sensitive and confidential manner.

What if the person I am treating is in hospital?

If the person is currently in hospital, notification should be sent to the Firearms Registry and police as soon as practicable before the patient is discharged.

What information is required?

The form requires the following information:
* The name of the person, and
* Address and phone number, and
* Date of Birth.

Indicate on the form where the person is currently located - home, hospital etc.

If the person is in care at a location other than their residential address, indicate the address where the person will be staying when discharged.

There is a section on the form for comment on the circumstances of the case and why you hold concerns that the person may have access to firearms/prohibited weapons.

You may insert here how the information was relayed, what that information was and any observations you have made concerning the case that may be relevant to the police or the Firearms Registry.

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There is a section for you to insert your details as the person reporting. This is so that police or the Firearms Registry may make contact with you to discuss the information supplied, if necessary.

All information supplied is treated in the strictest confidence.

What do I do when the form is complete?

Print the completed form and email to the Firearms Registry at **firearms@police.nsw.gov.au**.

Also email the form to the District Inspector at the police station nearest where the person resides or will reside when released.

If you do not know the closest police station, call the Police Assistance Line on **131444** and they will direct your call to the closest Police station where you can speak to an officer and obtain the email address for the station.

If the situation is urgent call 000 to report the matter.

Where can I get more information?

Call the Firearms Registry on 1300 362 562.

NSW Police Force Firearms Registry	Version	Document Date	RMS Reference
Disclosure of Information by Health Professionals	V3.4	March 2026	D/2026/335599

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www.police.nsw.gov.au

ABN 43 408 613 180

NSW POLICE FORCE - FIREARMS REGISTRY

Disclosure of Information by Health Professionals

Section 79 of the *Firearms Act 1996 and* Section 38 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998*

Section 79 of the *Firearms Act 1996* and Section 38 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* protect disclosures of information to the NSW Commissioner of Police by health professionals where they are of the opinion that a person they are treating may pose a risk to public safety or to the person's own safety if in possession of a firearm or prohibited weapon. Of particular interest are high risk mental health patients known to have access to firearms.

Section 79 of the *Firearms Act 1996* and Section 38 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* provide protection from civil or criminal liability, that may otherwise arise including a breach of confidentiality, when disclosing information to the Commissioner of Police.

A health professional, is defined in Section 79 of the *Firearms Act 1996* and for the purposes of Section 38 of the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998,* as any of the following persons: a medical practitioner, psychologist, nurse , social worker or professional counsellor.

PROCESS TO FOLLOW

1. Complete the form and Fax to 02 66708558 and mark 'Attention - Team Leader Licensing', AND
2. Fax this form to the police station nearest the residential address of the patient. If you are unsure of the nearest police station, ring the Police Assistance Line on 131444.

PATIENT INFORMATION

LAST NAME | FIRST NAME

DATE OF BIRTH | TELEPHONE

HOME ADDRESS

Where is the patient currently located? eg inpatient, Accident and Emergency, at residential address etc.

If in hospital, anticipated date of discharge. To ensure safety issues can be addressed, please give at least 6 hours notice to Police. DATE OF DISCHARGE

ADDRESS WHERE PATIENT WILL BE DISCHARGED (if different from residential address).

Describe the circumstances that lead you to believe that the person may pose a threat if in possession of a firearm/prohibited weapon. Include relevant conversation, observations, circumstances, effect of medical condition or treatment on person's capacity etc.

Does the person have access to their own firearms/prohibited weapons? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

Does the person have access to other firearms/prohibited weapons? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

If 'YES' indicate below the address where the firearms/prohibited weapons are located?
For example, with friends, neighbours, spouse or other relative.

HEALTH PROVIDER INFORMATION

☐ Medical Practitioner ☐ Psychologist ☐ Reg/Enrolled Nurse ☐ Social Worker ☐ Counsellor

NAME | CONTACT NUMBER

SIGNATURE | DATE

Reporting Location (eg hospital, mental health hotline, private clinic, facility etc)

ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IS TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE