

California Gun Services

Helping families navigate the responsibility of firearms left behind

By Jody Robinson

For many seniors, widows, and adult children, the passing of a loved one brings an unexpected discovery layered into an already emotional time: firearms tucked away in closets, safes, nightstands, or garages—often accompanied by more questions than answers.

What do you do with them? Are they legal to keep? Can they be sold, moved, or simply given away?

For Jeff McCabe, owner of California Gun Services, these are not abstract questions—they are daily phone calls.

"Most people don't realize how complex California gun laws are until they're suddenly responsible for a firearm they didn't expect to have," he says. "Many times, the firearm belonged to a late husband or father. The family doesn't want it, but they also don't know what to do with it."

Those moments reveal a gap between legal complexity and everyday understanding—especially for seniors who may no longer feel comfortable handling firearms, or heirs who want to do the right thing but don't know where to begin.

WHERE LAW MEETS SENSITIVITY

California's firearm regulations

are not only detailed—they are constantly evolving. Even well-meaning actions, like transporting a firearm or attempting to "turn it in," can inadvertently create legal issues.

Beyond the law, there is also the human side: grief, memory, and sometimes hesitation about removing something that once belonged (or currently belongs) to a loved one like a recent case where McCabe assisted a family managing a father in the early stages of dementia. The firearms were legally owned, but the family needed a solution that prioritized safety without causing distress.

"These situations require patience and respect," he says. "It's not just about removal—it's about understanding what the family is going through."

A TRUSTED GUIDE THROUGH A COMPLICATED PROCESS

McCabe and his team offer in-home services designed to simplify what can otherwise feel overwhelming. Through California Gun Services, clients receive:

- On-site firearm audits and safety checks
- Guidance on California compliance laws
- Legal, documented disposal of unwanted firearms
- Appraisal and purchase options for collections
- Ammunition safety and storage reviews

In cases of inheritance, McCabe often works alongside estate attorneys and family members to ensure everything is handled properly and respectfully.

San Clemente resident Rhonda Murphy remembers the relief she felt after calling McCabe following her husband's passing.

"I didn't want to keep the guns, and I wasn't sure what was legal," she says. "Jeff came to the house, handled everything professionally, and took the worry off my shoulders. It was one less thing to deal with during a very hard time."

A SERVICE BUILT ON RESPONSIBILITY

For McCabe, the mission is simple: reduce risk, ensure compliance, and bring peace of mind to families navigating a difficult transition.

"Firearms can last longer than a lifetime," he says. "Knowing what you have—and what to do with it—is essential."

