



Free Veteran-to-Veteran Firearm Storage

A Voluntary, Lethal Means Safety Option

Action Over Silence offers free, temporary, voluntary firearm storage for Veterans, Service Members, and eligible family members who wish to create time and distance from their firearms during periods of stress, transition, travel, or personal concern.

This program is part of [Indiana's Community Challenge](#) to prevent veteran suicide and supports the nationally recognized principle of lethal means safety — creating time and space during difficult moments.

This program is:

- Voluntary
- Confidential
- Veteran-led
- Temporary
- Designed to preserve lawful ownership

This program is not:

- Law enforcement
- Confiscation
- A background investigation
- A mental health service

It is a structured safety resource.

Why It Matters

Research consistently shows that many suicidal crises are short in duration. When access to highly lethal methods is temporarily interrupted, survival rates increase significantly.

Sometimes strength means creating space from your hardest moment.

Who Can Use This Program?

You may use this service if you are a:

- U.S. Military Veteran



- Active Service Member
- Family member or caregiver of a Veteran or Service Member

We currently prioritize Allen County and surrounding Northeast Indiana county residents.

How It Works

Schedule in Advance

No walk-ins.

Call, text, or email to schedule an intake appointment:

storage@actionoversilence.org

(260) 267-6532

Monday–Friday during business hours

\$ Secure Intake Appointment

Appointments occur in a private, secure downtown Fort Wayne location. During intake:

- Identity is verified
- Firearm make/model/serial are documented for custody tracking
- Mechanical safety is confirmed
- A voluntary storage agreement is completed

**Ownership does not transfer.

Firearms remain your property at all times.

% Secure Storage

Firearms are stored inside:

- A controlled-access facility
- A hardened vault structure
- A secondary secure containment system
- Under documented chain-of-custody procedures. Only designated, trained personnel have access.



& Temporary Duration

- Typical storage duration: Up to 3 weeks
- Extensions may be considered based on circumstances and capacity.

Structured Release

Release requires:

- Verified identity
- Completion of release documentation
- Confirmation the individual is not visibly impaired at time of pickup. Firearms are released only to the original documented owner.

Important Safety Requirements

Before arrival:

- Firearms must be unloaded
- Ammunition must be removed
- Firearms must have a cable lock (free locks available upon request). If you need a lock, we can provide one.

Privacy & Dignity

- We do not require disclosure of personal crisis details.
- We do not report participation unless legally required.
- We do not share information outside program protocol.
- This is a voluntary, custodial safekeeping service grounded in dignity and respect.

Additional Safety Resources

Action Over Silence also distributes:

- Free gun locks
- Dterra medication disposal pouches
- Naloxone (Narcan)
- Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips
- Veterans Crisis Line resources (988, Press 1)



****Every interaction includes reinforcement of safety resources.**

A Message from Christopher James McKenna

100% Service-Disabled Navy Veteran

“I built this program because I believe in the Second Amendment — and I believe in protecting my fellow veterans. Sometimes the bravest thing a veteran can do is take a temporary break from their firearms while they stabilize. This safe exists to protect life—not to judge it.”

Questions? Interested in storing a firearm?

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****Note:** We are not a crisis resource. If you are in immediate crisis, call or text 988 and press 1 for Veterans.