



SAGA Snippets

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Using Someone Else's Firearms

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By Damian Enslin

I have been a dedicated-sports shooter for several years. I was fortunate that when I started out there were other sport-shooters who were willing to allow me to use their firearms while I built up enough points or shoots to apply for my dedicated status.

I was then able to apply for the firearms that I needed for the sports-shooting disciplines I wished to partake in. While waiting for the firearm licences, I was again fortunate to be able to use other sports-shooters firearms.

However, what does the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 (FCA) say about this? This is dealt with in terms of Section 22 of the FCA, which allows one to use another person's firearm under their immediate supervision.

The section is quoted verbatim:

22. Despite anything to the contrary in this Act but subject to section 120 (5), any person who is at least 21 years of age and the holder of a licence to possess a firearm issued in terms of this Act may allow any other person to use that firearm while under his or her immediate supervision where it is safe to use the firearm and for a lawful purpose.

It is clear from the above that the person who is the registered firearm licence holder who allows someone else to use his or her firearm must be at least 21 years of age (which ordinarily should not cause any problems, as there are very few persons under the age of 21 who receive firearm licences) but, more importantly, that person must be under the firearm licence holder's **immediate supervision**.

What then is immediate supervision and what is required or what are the parameters? Unfortunately, the FCA does not have a definition of what immediate supervision is or its requirements. These words must then be given their ordinary meaning or interpretation. If one searches on the internet, there are various definitions of immediate supervision:

Definitions of **Immediate supervision**: Immediate supervision, as used in this rule, **means reasonable direction, oversight, inspection, and evaluation** of the work of a person, in or out of the **immediate presence**.

'Immediate supervision' means that **a person is present and immediately available within the treatment area to give aid, direction and instruction** to the person he or she is supervising.

It appears from a cursory surface level investigation that, when a person is under your immediate supervision, they should be under your reasonable control, and that you should be able to direct and give them instructions and should be within audible range. → →

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April 2022

Special points of interest:

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Continued: Using Someone Else's Firearms

In the practical sports-shooting, hunting, or any shooting environment, this would mean that the person using your firearm should be within a reasonable distance from you so that you are able to give them verbal instructions and possibly intervene if there is an issue that needs to be dealt with, such as a malfunction with a firearm. In effect, you should be able to exercise some sort of reasonable control over them.

In the practical environment, a sports-shooter often has a scenario or course of fire to complete, and thus in my view although you do not have to be on top of the actual shooter, you should be able to be within a reasonable distance of them to assist if there is a malfunction with the firearm.

The other criterion is that the firearm may be used where it is safe to do so and for a lawful purpose. Obviously, the firearm must be used in a safe manner that does not endanger other persons/shooters. On the shooting range/shooting area, this would normally imply that the firearm is used/pointed in a safe direction and not in the direction of other shooters.

Furthermore, the firearm can only be used for a lawful purpose such as sports-shooting, hunting instruction, or training purposes – thus not for any wrongful or criminal conduct. In my view, you should also instruct the person who is going to use your firearm in the use of your firearm, and ensure that he or she knows how to safely and correctly use your firearm. You should assess the person on their experience with the use of your type of firearm. Either way, whether you are dealing with an experienced shooter or not, you should show that person how your firearm operates, as there is a myriad of different firearms with different types of safeties, triggers, actions, and hammers, etc.

Also note the following potential offences in terms of Section 120 of the FCA when allowing someone else to use your firearm under your immediate supervision:

Section 120 (5) A Person is guilty of an offence if he or she gives control of a firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun to a person whom he or she knows or ought reasonably to have known –

- (a) to be mentally ill; or
- (b) to be under the influence of a substance which has an intoxicating or a narcotic effect.

So, one must ensure that the person who is using your firearm under your supervision is not intoxicated nor suffering from a mental problem. The former may be easier to discern, but regarding the latter, it is not always possible to know whether someone is mentally ill.

Furthermore, note the following offence in terms of Section 120 of the FCA:

Section 120 (10) it is an offence to –

- (a) sell, supply or in any manner give possession of a firearm or ammunition to a person who is not allowed in terms of this Act to possess that firearm or ammunition;

Thus, ordinarily you cannot just give or hand over possession of your firearm to another person, unless they are under your immediate supervision as per Section 22. This would include your spouse or children, unless they have also applied and received a licence for the same firearm(s).

Please also note the potential criminal charges / contraventions / penalties and the minimum periods which are referred to in Section 121 in Schedule 4 which you may receive upon conviction:

120 (5) three years

120 (10) (a) ten years

In summation, the above is a very short overview of Section 22 of the FCA, and is not meant to be the final word on this section. However, as a firearm owner, you must be aware of this section, specifically when allowing someone else to use your firearm. In my view, it is a great responsibility that should not be taken lightly.



SAGA Class Action



Those who wish to financially contribute to the SAGA class action are welcome to do so. All payments must be made to the SAGA bank account, details as follows:

Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Durban North
Branch Code: 042 826
Account Name: SAGA Trust
Account Number: 05 135 0610
Reference: Your surname and initials with "Class Action"

SAGA's class action suit has been a success and we are updated on a regular basis CFR, with more members applications being approved and processed.

We are now proceeding with a 3rd batch of 140 further members and we are waiting on feedback from CFR. They have assured SAGA that they will respond with feedback soon.

We are however still waiting for finalization of applications for those members who utilized the firearm amnesty, as such firearms handed in, are subject to IBIS testing. We are engaging the CFR on this issue and the CFR must resolve this issue soon failing which we will proceed with court action.

Any members who have waited longer than 4 months for applications are welcome to submit their details on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEfUyzJTkpvxvFQlhR3kJJoJ3Bw_w6qf_hHbgjJdbTXSEQ/viewform

NOTE: If your name is already on the link, there is no need for you to register again unless you have further applications to deal with.

Please email the proof of payment to: saga@saga.org.za and in your covering email provide us with your name and contact number.

Any funds that are paid towards the class action will be ring fenced and kept aside purely for the legal action against SAPS and CFR.

Should you have any queries concerning the SAGA class action, please email the office on saga@saga.org.za or firearms@legalonline.co.za

Heavy Metal

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/heavy-metal-4-weird-elements-you-didn-t-know-guns-can-use/>

Heavy Metal: 4 Weird Elements You Didn't Know Guns Can Use

by NRA Staff

14 March 2022



Pull out the periodic table: Here are four metals you might find in a gun ... or not!

Bronze, iron, steel: When you think of firearm manufacturing, chances are you're thinking of those metals and alloys. It's true that, since people have been manufacturing guns, the vast majority of them have been made from bronze, iron or steel. (These days, of course, the vast majority are manufactured with high-grade steel.)

However, there are some strange metals used in gun manufacturing from time to time ... and it's entirely possible that you may not even know a couple of them exist! Get out your periodic table and get ready to learn about some very rare earth, indeed.

1) Cr: Chromium

Yes, that name is where the word "chrome" comes from, and it's definitely every bit as shiny as you'd hope. Additionally, Chromium is very resistant to corrosion, wear and heat. It has three common uses in gun production: First, as an alloying agent of steel and stainless steel; second, as an anti-corrosion plating on firearms; and third, as a wear-resistant plating in bores. Chromium is terrific for these uses because it's a very hard metal. It also has a very high melting point, and, interestingly, increases lubricity.

2) Nb: Niobium, also known as Columbium

This rare metal has all of the characteristics for making the perfect rifle barrel. It's easily machined, for starters. It is substantially more resistant to heat and corrosion than any type of stainless steel. It has terrific yield strength and modulus of elasticity. Like we said, perfect ... except for its scarcity, and, therefore, its very high cost. Because of those factors, Niobium/Columbium is usually only used for Gatling-type guns, where the price made sense in order to keep a full-auto firearm of that type safe from heat and corrosion.

3) Pt: Platinum

No doubt you'll recognize the name of this element, one of the most expensive metals used in jewelry. Due to that expense, it's primarily used today in the gun industry for decorative inlays and overlays—much as gold is used for many fine shotguns. But it wasn't always that way.

Back in the era of flintlocks, gun manufacturing was entirely done by hand. Some gun-makers noticed platinum's extreme resistance to corrosion and heat and used it in touch-holes of flintlock muzzleloaders. It was also used as an overlay in the flash pan. Today, platinum is still used ... although mostly in optics. Its extreme ductility makes it useful for optical sight reticles.

4) Sc: Scandium

Scandium is what's called a rare-earth metal. How rare? Well, it wasn't even discovered until 1879. In its pure form, it is relatively soft with a high melting point. When alloyed with aluminum, Scandium renders it considerably stronger than other aluminum alloys, more fatigue-resistant, virtually corrosion-proof, lighter and less expensive than titanium alloys. The resulting alloy is aerospace-quality. Lovers of small, lightweight CCW revolvers are most likely to encounter Scandium alloys in their firearms.

What other "weird" elements have been used in guns? Copper, gold, silver and nickel have all been part of gun manufacture for centuries as well!

5 Myths About Shotguns That Need To Go Away, Already

by Frank Melloni

20 April 2022

Popular media and the ignorant have spread some dangerous myths about shotguns. Have you heard any of these?

Somewhere along the line, the mainstream media (together with the ignorant) branded shotguns as a cure-all capable of everything and anything you could ever expect, instantly, with little to no training.

The truth is that, while versatile, the shotgun is no more than a simple tool that serves many, but not all, purposes. As millions of Americans have purchased a scattergun within the past two years, it's important to share a few words of advice to help dispel myths that you might have heard at the gun counter, sportsman's club, public range or anywhere else those dedicated to spreading ignorance tend to congregate.

"The pump-action sound alone will scare 'em off."

Well, I can't speak for all criminals, but it's very frequently the case that they don't scare very easily, especially if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Post-arrest interviews with these types reveal that they didn't consider much beyond getting whatever it was they were after. Defensive experts have mixed opinions about declaring that you are armed—which is what you're doing by working the action of a pump gun for the sole purpose of being heard.

Furthermore, there are few of thought that sees a tactical advantage to blindly giving away your position to a potential attacker. My recommendation? If you want a noise-based deterrent, get a dog.

"The pattern (spread) is so big that aiming is a cinch."

This one makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up. In the realm of firearms, there are few valid blanket statements. For starters, every individual shell will produce its own unique pattern. Couple that with different



barrel lengths and choke tubes, and the size of the spread will be a mystery until you pattern it. I recommend every shotgun owner pattern whichever load they plan on using for emergencies. In my testing, the biggest pattern I've found only measured 10 inches or less in diameter within distances of 10 yards, and that was from an 18.5" cylinder bore barrel. So yes, you do need to aim, and you had better do your best to center that pattern because whatever doesn't stop inside of the threat will may become a problem. This brings us to number three:

"Shotshells won't penetrate walls."

This is another dangerous piece of advice and could not be any more wrong. First, back to blanket statements: Are we talking birdshot? Buckshot? Slugs? Two feet? Forty-five feet? Brick and mortar? Drywall? Paneling? You get the picture.

In my testing, I was able to get even light-weight #8 birdshot through two layers of dry-wall, just so long as I was close enough to it. On the same day, I was able to put #4 through both sides of a standard interior wall from 7 yards away, and a slug straight through a 2x4 stud from the same distance. Owning a shotgun doesn't mean you are exempt from being responsible. Understand the risks, and regardless of ammo selection, know which directions are safe to fire towards and more importantly, which ones aren't.

→ →



Continued: 5 Myths About Shotguns

"Shotguns can't jam."

Believe it or not, shotguns can indeed jam and they do so rather often. Gas-operated guns require frequent cleaning intervals to stay mechanically sound, as they are some of the dirtiest birds of the flock. While inertia-driven semi-autos run cleaner, they need your shoulder to be there to recoil against. Therefore, if you fire from an unorthodox position (like during an attack) you might have to deal with a stovepipe or even a complete failure to cycle.

Well, just get a pump-action then, right? Sure, as long as you don't short-stroke it under stress, leaving you with a gun that is either out of battery or has an empty chamber because you didn't run the forend through its complete stroke. Also, don't forget that the feeding system on these guns is gravity-dependent, so if you don't have them relatively upright and level, there is a good chance that you can run into an issue that way too. Lastly, there isn't any sort of camming action in a pump action's bolt. This means that there is zero mechanical assistance in ripping a swollen fired case out of the chamber—it's up to you and your muscles.

"They hold enough ammo, so you won't need to reload."

"If you can't hit what you're aiming at with five rounds, you shouldn't have been in there in the first place ha, ha, ha!" If that was uttered to you across the gun counter, you might want to seek another source of advice. The truth is, shooting under stress is tough. Go ahead and bring a timer to the range with you someday and play beat the clock. You'll be mortified by how many shots you miss.

By design, shotguns are low-capacity firearms and that could be to your detriment. Even if your state has capacity restrictions on rifle and pistol magazines, an average shotgun still only holds about half the ammunition of these firearms.

Shotguns are terrific tools for hunting, home defense and target shooting ... but as you can see, shotguns are not "magic wands" for any of those purposes. They're one choice among many. No matter which firearm you choose for your purpose, there is no substitute for training and practice.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/5-myths-about-shotguns-that-need-to-go-away-already/>



SAGA Corporate Membership

What are SAGA Corporate members?

SAGA Corporate Members are clubs, associations and businesses who actively endorse the work being done by SAGA to protect firearm ownership rights in South Africa.

Join via the SAGA website using the Corporate Application tab on the Join SAGA page or contact the office.



We are **so proud** to have the following as current SAGA Corporate Members:

AIM AND FIRE (PTY) LTD
 AINSLIE INTERNATIONAL
 ALPHA SECURITY & PATROLS
 ARMS KING
 AWESOME TOOLS
 BORDER HUNTING CLUB
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 CAPE SPORT RIFLE CLUB
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 CLAY PIGEON ADVENTURES
 CLAY TARGET SHOOT ASSOC
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 FALSE BAY F T A (PTY) LTD
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 IHAWU FIREARMS CENTRE
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 SABIE CLAY PIGEON CLUB
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Membership of SAGA

Thank you for your support for SAGA!

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible gunowners in SA.

Refer a Friend

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes?

Refer them to SAGA today!

Rates for New Members for 2022:

Adult R260

Junior R160

Pensioner R160

Family:

1x Adult @R260 plus any number of family members @ R70 each

Scan the QR code below for a quick link to the SAGA application form or join via our website at www.saga.org.za

Should you have any queries please contact the office on 031-562-9951 or email saga@saga.org.za

