



KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE

Clinician Fact Sheet on Gun Licensing

Thames Valley has the second largest number of firearm and shotgun certificate holders in the UK at 35,000 of which 29,500 are shotgun certificates. On average each certificate holder has 6 weapons.

The administration of firearms licensing is undertaken by the police with support from the Home Office. Individuals have to apply for either a shotgun certificate, firearms certificate (this covers rifles) or a cotermious certificate which allows both. Shotgun certificates are easier to acquire as an individual needs a reason to hold a firearm license.

Certificates must be re-issued every 5 years.

Considerations when seeing patients:

1. Licensing requirements:

Certificate holders are required to declare any “relevant medical conditions” to the police contemporaneously including:

- Acute stress reaction
- Suicidal thoughts or self-harm
- Depression or anxiety
- Dementia
- Mania, bipolar disorder or a psychotic illness
- Personality disorder
- Neurological condition e.g. MS, PD, Huntingdon's or epilepsy
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Any other mental or physical condition which might affect your safe possession of firearms or shotguns

There may be anxiety that declaration will lead to loss of license but the police declare that they have a positive attitude to self-declaration by a certificate holder as this implies the characteristics of honesty and transparency required for safe licensing.

KHH should be prompting patients to make this self-declaration to the police if they have a certificate and a relevant condition.

*****IF THINKING ABOUT SAFETY OF DRIVING WE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT SAFETY OF GUNS*****

2. Safety:

If staff have any concerns regarding personal or public safety we should inform the police regardless of patient consent.

For safety of lone practitioners it may be pertinent to flag presence of guns in the home on the front sheet of the notes if known.

3. Advance Care Planning:

Individual shotguns can be held on more than one individual's certificate. If a patient is approaching end of life and wishes to leave their shotguns to a friend/relative it may be more efficient to transfer the guns onto the planned recipient's certificate before death so that after death the guns can be transferred to their care. This will require police (firearms licensing) involvement via a transfer notification form.

Transfer of firearms is more complicated and thus will require involvement of the police (firearms licensing).

Contact Details for Thames Valley Firearms Licensing:

Thames Valley Police, Firearms and Explosive Licensing Department, Police Headquarters, Kidlington, OX5 2NX

Telephone - 01865 541556 from 2pm to 4pm, Monday to Thursday and 2pm to 3pm on Fridays

Email - firearmslicensing@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk – monitored Monday – Friday from 8am – 4pm.

If your enquiry is outside of these hours please contact 101. If your enquiry is urgent please contact 999.