

Policy Type: **Executive Limitations**



Policy Title: **Seized and Found Firearms**

---

### **Policy Statement**

The Board recognizes the dangers associated with unlawful firearms and is committed to ensuring that such firearms are removed from circulation in accordance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*. The Board is committed to the safe and proper storage, tracking and disposal of all firearms that come into the possession of the Durham Regional Police Service in the execution of its responsibilities.

### **Policy Application**

1. The Chief of Police shall ensure that:
  - a. Firearms are securely stored and that they are returned to their owners if there is a court order or other legal requirement to that effect.
  - b. Firearms are destroyed when all possible court proceedings relating to the firearm have been completed or the time for them has expired and there is no court order or other legal requirement governing how the firearm is to be dealt with, subject to paragraph c.
  - c. The Director of the Centre of Forensic Sciences is notified if the Chief of Police considers the firearm unique, an antique or of educational or historical value, and that the firearm is transferred to Centre's collection if the Director so indicates, within three months of receiving notice from the Chief of Police.
  - d. The firearm referred to in paragraph c. is destroyed promptly if the Director indicates that the firearm is not required for the Centre's collection or fails to respond within three months of receiving notice, or disposed of other than by destruction if the Minister's approval is obtained.
  - e. A register of firearms is kept and that the following rules are followed:
    - i. Every firearm's description and location shall be recorded.
    - ii. When a firearm ceases to be in the possession of the police service board or of a member of the police service, full particulars shall be recorded, including the name of the person who disposed of it and the date and method of disposal.

- iii. If the firearm is returned to its owner, his or her name, address and telephone number shall also be recorded.

## **Reporting**

In February of each year, the Chief of Police shall report the following to the Board:

1. A list of the firearms that have come into the possession of the police service during the preceding calendar year.
2. A list of which firearms are still being retained and which have been disposed of, along with the particulars of that disposal.
3. Any other information prescribed by the Minister.

A copy of the report shall be provided to the Minister by the Chief of Police by February 28 each year.