

Do the laws have to protect you from yourself?

Why does some of the public feel that lax laws regarding carrying a firearm could result in more dangerous situations for average citizens than would help them? Many pro-gun control advocates feel that loosening these laws would be an irresponsible decision and pose an unnecessary threat to the public at large. Journalist Tim Murphy leans towards this side and points out that Utah has particularly light requirements like no obligation to qualify with a firearm, a processing fee of 50\$, and taking a class for firearm safety after which you must wait 60 days for your application to be processed. He says that these kind of bare requirements result in more accidents by people who are not proficient in firearms and are not required by law to learn, such as himself as he says "I struggle to load more than a few (fake bullets) before they're ejected halfway across the room." (Murphy 1). He also displays concern that criminals are able to get their hands on these licenses and legally conceal a firearm. He claims that these laws must be tightened for public safety's sake, but such argument can be flipped around where tight laws can hurt people as well. People who do not have the time to wait for the 2 month applications period or aren't able to spare the time for a training class. This was the case of Carol Bowne, who was "murdered in cold blood on her own property by a violent criminal who would not be restrained by good intentions." (Cooke). In her home state of New Jersey you must apply for a permit to own a handgun, not carry but merely own, which she did after filing a restraining order, setting up cameras, and purchasing an alarm in fear of her ex-boyfriend who she was sure wanted to hurt her. She was

Mary Hays: Interesting question.

Mary Hays: Good acknowledgment of your source. However,...

Mary Hays: ...is this "he" also Murphy? If you are continuing on with the same source, then you would put your citation at the end of the source material.

Mary Hays: And now a different source? Your source boundaries are blurry. I can't tell where Murphy ends and Cooke begins.

unfortunately correct, and in the two month period she had to wait for approval she was stabbed and killed by him in her own driveway. Perhaps if she could have just gone through a simple background check that takes only 3-7 days to prove her legitimacy as many states require, she would have had her protection in much fewer than the 60 days and very well could have been able to save herself when no one else could.

Mary Hays: It looks like your source material ends here (and the next sentence is your own analysis?) so you need the citation here.

Mary Hays: Where is your work cited page? Your in text citations are useless without them.