

Hello, I am a resident of Shelton, Connecticut, an Attorney, father of three boys, and a gun owner.

I live in very close proximity to Newtown and have family friends who are teachers, some at Sandy Hook. I also have friends who were first responders to what happened that fateful day. One of my employee's close friends is also a teacher at Sandy Hook. With this background I feel I have a unique perspective to what transpired, with information that the general public does not have. What happened at Sandy Hook is a tragedy and I believe that what you will discover is that in hindsight there were a lot of factors that contributed to the events. However, only one has been demonized by the media. I look to the west and see how quickly New York pushed through new legislation without any aforethought. This type of knee jerk reaction and diminished rights is exactly what the Constitution and the 2nd amendment was designed to prevent. My wife asked me if I owned any assault rifles, and I asked her to define what an assault rifle was. She said an AR-15 machine gun, because AR stands for assault rifle. Like most of the public her belief was that AR stood for assault rifle, and an assault rifle mean that once you depressed the trigger, the gun continued to fire automatically until you stopped holding the trigger. This is the misinformation disseminated by the media.

Under New York law most of my guns would be illegal because most guns employ the technology to feed another round into the chamber once the prior round is fired. My favorite duck hunting gun, my boy's 22 rifles, my AR of course, some of my deer guns, and all of my self defense handguns. I have a CT permit to carry a concealed weapon. I have been trained, fingerprinted, and submitted to numerous background checks. I have done everything to comply with the the law. Yet I may soon be a felon if pending legislation passes.

I grew up in a hunting environment and I have raised my boys in that same type of environment. I started training them when they were 4-5 years old shooting a Daisy BB gun in the back yard. We wore safety glasses, ear protection, had a yellow caution line and used the standard NRA range rules. Gun safety was instilled from day one. I then took them to a public range to see how the range worked. We then learned to shoot on a single shot 22. The time I have spent with my boys on the range is something I will always cherish. There are many other familys like mine who wonder what they will and will not be able to do with their children should the shooting sports no longer be allowed in CT.

Gun safety has always been of the utmost importance in my house. My system should be a model to consider. I have a biometric safe, that contains a defense gun and keys to a gun safe. Only my fingerprints or my wife's can open it. There is no gun access unless you have my fingerprints. The keyed gun safe contains unloaded firearms. In a separate combination safe is ammunition. The separate storage of guns and ammo creates another layer of security. No access to guns unless one can override the biometrics, no access to ammo unless one knows the combination. I still have quick access to personal defense guns through biometric safes. Three levels of security.

Had my storage system been in place for the mother of the shooter, or had the basic rules of firearm safety been followed maybe this mentally ill boy would not have had access.

Bad people do not follow the law, they will get access to weapons through illegal means. We demonize guns because it's easy to do. Had this tragedy occurred because of a bomb, arson, a sword or knife, would we be in same place?

It's not the spoon that makes people fat and its not the gun that makes people do bad things.

I hope that you consider those of us who follow the law and see our rights and lifestyle being infringed upon.

Todd Trautz, Esq.