



Issue 4

Gun Violence and Safety: Calling the Shots

This is the fourth installment of the "Gun Violence and Safety: Calling the Shots" tip sheet emails provided by the Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. that may be of use to you when considering future story lines. Included in this e-mail are depiction suggestions focusing on realistic alternative approaches to traditional fight scenes involving gunplay.

These suggestions were generated by a Round Table of writers, directors, producers and other industry professionals aiming to show creative alternatives to the usual fare, while compromising neither authenticity nor artistry. Hopefully, these depiction suggestions will not only generate fresh ideas, but also give a realistic sense of the consequences resulting from violent acts involving guns, and the ways lives on both sides of a pointed weapon are affected. The following suggestions are designed to enhance the creative process, not to limit it.

DEPICTION IDEAS

- If appropriate to the story, consider exploring a gun dealer's or a gun supplier's remorse about the harm done by someone to whom he or she furnished a firearm.
- Consider having a character use a gun in what he/she believes is self-defense only to be charged with murder or manslaughter because it's determined that excessive or unjustified lethal force was deployed.
- Consider having characters successfully use alternatives to guns for self-defense, such as pepper spray or mace.
- When appropriate, try to depict parents, teachers, counselors, and even peers giving advice to young people about alternate forms of conflict resolution.
- Try to provide role modeling behavior by showing friends trying to dissuade a character from arming him/herself after the gun death of a friend or family member.

STATISTICS

- A new handgun is produced in the U.S. every 12 seconds. (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms estimate, 1994)
- 15% of 6th through 12th graders surveyed said they had carried a handgun at some time during the prior 30 days. (Louis Harris research poll, 1999)
- In one survey, 45% of people arrested reported the illegal firearm market as a primary

source for obtaining guns. (National Institute of Justice, Sept., 1995)

- On average, more than one woman every day of the year is shot and killed by her husband or intimate acquaintance during the course of an argument. (Analysis of 1996 Washington D.C. homicide data, Violence Policy Center, 1998)

For more information on gun violence, safety, and injury prevention, please contact Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. at (703) 481-1418 or eic@eiconline.org.