Handgunlaw.us FAQs

Last Updated: 8/1/16

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#1 Question: Will a past arrest prevent me from getting a permit? Will I be able to get a permit? Etc., Etc., Etc.

Answer: Asking people on the internet about the laws of different states will get you as many answers as people who respond. The people you need to ask are the people or offices that issue Permits/Licenses in your state. They are the only ones who can give you a correct answer. Don't talk to any Attorney or Law Enforcement Officer unless they work for the people or offices that issue such Permits/Licenses. Officers and Attorneys who are not involved in the process do not know the process. Only those who have worked with the process will be able to accurately answer your question, in your state.

To check with the people or offices that issue Permits/Licenses, go to the Main page here at Handgunlaw.us and click on the State that you wish to find the answers for. That page will take you to the people or offices that issue Permits/Licenses in the state selected. These are the people who can help you with your questions and have the correct answers you are seeking.

#2 Question: Are there places that I can't carry even with a carry permit?

Answer: Yes. Most states have places that you cannot carry your concealed firearm even with a license/permit. To view places off limits click on the state abbreviation on the main page map of the state you wish to know the information about. This will take you to that states page and places off limits in that state are listed.

#3 Question: Do any other states honor my carry permit?

Answer: Click on the "Lic My State Honors" or St. Honoring My Lic." buttons in the left column on the main page of Handgunlaw.us. Those links will take you to a listing of all the permits your state honors. Each states page also lists who honors their permit and whose permits they honor.

#4 Question: How should I transport my firearm in a state I cannot legally carry in?

Answer: When entering a state you cannot legally carry in, if you unload the firearm, enclose it either in a box or pistol rug and put it in your trunk, you will be legal. Some states require that you keep the ammo separate from the firearm. If you have a vehicle that does not have a trunk, put the unloaded firearm in a "Locked Box" and put it behind the seat in a pickup or all the way in the back of an SUV. See United States Title 18 - Part I - Chapter 44 § 926A on the Interstate Transportation of Firearms. Some states have specific laws about transporting firearms. To find info about the laws for a given state click on the state on the map on the main page and that states page will open with additional info for that state.

#5 Question: Can I legally carry in the Post Office?

Answer: No CFR Conduct on Federal Property Court Case Upholding Law

Title 39 - Postal Service
Chapter I - United States Postal Service
Subchapter D - Organization and Administration
Part 232 - Conduct on Postal Property
232.1 - Conduct on Postal Property.

Paragraph L

(l) Weapons and explosives. No person while on postal property may carry firearms, other dangerous or deadly weapons, or explosives, either openly or concealed, or store the same on postal property, except for official purposes.

Note: March 2016 the US Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal those upholding the Postal Services right to ban firearms in their buildings and parking lots.

#6 Question: Can I carry in a National Park/National Wildlife Refuge?

Answer: Yes on February 22, 2010. The law was struck down and then passed again and does not take effect till February 22, 2010. When the law goes into effect if you can legally carry a concealed firearm in the state the National Park/National Wildlife Refuge is located in you are legal to carry in NP's/ NWMA's in that state. If you can not legally carry concealed in the state you are in then you can not carry in the NP's/NWMA's in that state. You can not carry into any federally owned buildings in National Parks/National Wildlife Refuges as other federal laws ban the carrying of firearms in federal buildings.

Note: National Monuments, National Preserves, National Historic Sites/Parks, National Rivers, National Memorials, National Recreation Areas and National Seashores all fall under the National Park Service which the Department of Interior operates. This means all these places listed allow carry there if you can legally carry in the state the above mentioned are located. Do be aware that all buildings used for official business are off limits. See 18 USC Sec 930 below. Federal Buildings must be posted or you must be informed they are a federal building.

18 USC Sec. 930 01/03/2007

TITLE 18 - CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
PART I - CRIMES
CHAPTER 44 - FIREARMS

Sec. 930. Possession of Firearms and Dangerous Weapons in Federal Facilities

(a) Except as provided in subsection (d), whoever knowingly possesses or causes to be present a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a Federal facility (other than a Federal court facility), or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.
(b) Whoever, with intent that a firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission of a crime, knowingly possesses or causes to be present such firearm or dangerous weapon in a Federal facility, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.
(c) A person who kills any person in the course of a violation of subsection (a) or (b), or in the course of an attack on a Federal facility involving the use of a firearm or other dangerous weapon, or attempts or conspires to do such an act, shall be punished as provided in sections 1111, 1112, 1113, and 1117.
(d) Subsection (a) shall not apply to -

(1) the lawful performance of official duties by an officer, agent, or employee of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision thereof, who is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of law;
(2) the possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon by a Federal official or a member of the Armed Forces if such possession is authorized by law; or
(3) the lawful carrying of firearms or other dangerous weapons in a Federal facility incident to hunting or other lawful purposes.

(e)

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), whoever knowingly possesses or causes to be present a firearm in a Federal court facility, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.
(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to conduct which is described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (d).

(f) Nothing in this section limits the power of a court of the United States to punish for contempt or to promulgate rules or orders regulating, restricting, or prohibiting the possession of weapons within any building housing such court or any of its proceedings, or upon any grounds appurtenant to such building.
(g) As used in this section:

(1) The term "Federal facility" means a building or part thereof owned or leased by the Federal Government, where Federal employees are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties.
(2) The term "dangerous weapon" means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length.
(3) The term "Federal court facility" means the courtroom, judges' chambers, witness rooms, jury deliberation rooms, attorney conference rooms, prisoner holding cells, offices of the court clerks, the United States attorney, and the United States marshal, probation and parole offices, and adjoining corridors of any court of the United States.

(h) Notice of the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to each Federal facility, and notice of subsection (e) shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to each Federal court facility, and no person shall be convicted of an offense under subsection (a) or (e) with respect to a Federal facility if such notice is not so posted at such facility, unless such person had actual notice of subsection (a) or (e), as the case may be.

#7 Question: Can I carry in National Forests?

Answer: Some states have state laws against carrying in a National Forest. You must be aware of the state law. There is no Federal Law restricting Concealed Carry in a National Forest. You can see if carry in National Forests in any state is legal by clicking on the state on the main page map you want info about. That states page will open when you click on the map. Do be advised that any building on the National Forest belonging to the Federal Government is off limits to concealed carry even if you can legally carry in the National Forest in that state. They are considered Federal Buildings.

#8 Question: Can I carry in a State Park?

Answer: Some states restrict carry in their State Parks even with a Permit/License that is issued or honored by that state. Click on the state you want info about on the main page map. That will open the page for that state. There you will find info about carrying in that states State Parks.

#9 Question: Can I get a permit/license from other states and if yes, what states issue non-resident permits?

Answer: Yes. To see what states issue non-resident permits click on "Non-Resident Permits" in the left column on the main page of Handgunlaw.us. It will tell who to contact and how to apply for that states Non-Resident Permit/License.

#10 Question: Can I fly and take my firearms with me?

Answer: Yes, you can. In the law links at the top of Handgunlaw.us click on "Travel Links" and you will find links to the Federal Law on flying with firearms and information from the Transportation Security Administration. You will see as long as you have the proper packaging for your firearm and check it you can have the firearm/s in your checked baggage. There are also links to the Major Airlines in the Travel Links section that will take you to the rules the different airlines may have on flying with your firearms.
Click **Here** to read a letter from the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration on the rules for flying with firearms.

 # 11 Question: If stopped by a police officer for any reason do I have to tell the officer I have a firearm concealed on my person?

Answer: Different states have different laws. Click on the state abbreviation on the main page map to view the info for that state. Whether you have to inform an officer or not is listed at the top of every state page.

 # 12 Question: Do I have to carry my permit/license with me when I am carrying?

Answer: Almost every state requires you to carry your Permit/License when carrying your concealed firearm. Many also require you to carry a photo ID along with your Permit/License. If you are not carrying your firearm you do not have to carry your permit.

 # 13 Question: What is the minimum age for purchasing a handgun? For the possession of a handgun?

Answer: No person may sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer a handgun or ammunition suitable only for a handgun to someone the transferor knows or has reasonable cause to believe is under the age of eighteen. 18 U.S.C. § 922(x)(1).

A federally licensed firearms dealer may not sell any firearm except a shotgun or rifle to any person whom the dealer knows or has reasonable cause to believe is under the age of 21. 18 U.S.C. § 922(b)(1).

"Some states have issued more restrictive laws considering minimum age for firearms sales, such as 21 for handgun sales. You should check your state laws."

 # 14 Question: Can a commercial truck driver carry a firearm in his/her rig?

Answer: There is no federal law concerning commercial truck drivers and firearms. If you have the proper Permits/License and can legally carry in the state you are driving in or that state allows the carrying of firearms without a permit you are legal. Click **Here** to read letter from Office of Hazardous Materials Standards that firearms do not fall under hazardous materials in commercial vehicles. Similar letter at **PHMSA** website.

Go **Here** for answers to questions by the US Dept of Transportation that states carrying firearms in commercial vehicles answer is: **"Carrying concealed weapons is a matter of state law."**

A company can have a Rule that states you cannot carry in their vehicles. That is just a company rule and all they can do if you do carry and are caught by them is fire you. You are not breaking a law just a company rule. I have talked to many truck drivers about this and I have not heard of one trucking company that allows their drivers to carry a firearm while working.

 # 15 Question: Under HR 218 (LEOSA) can a police officer carry anywhere in the country?

Answer: You have to meet certain criteria. On the main page map click on the state you wish to view LEOSA information about. The states have control over qualifications of retirees. You can click on the USA at the bottom of the main page map to find National LEOSA Information.

 # 16 Question: Do all the states that honor permits honor non-resident permits from the states they honor?

Answer: Colorado, Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Maine only honor permits from the residents of the states whose permits they honor. Most other states that honor permits of different states will also honor their non resident issued permits. There are a few quirks in how states honor each other. Go **Here** to see those quirks in how states "Honor" each other.

 # 17 Question: Can I carry concealed on military installations?

Answer: Firearms on Military Bases Regulations are contained in the General Services Administration (GSA Regs) which owns/leases/rents most Federal properties. To see that code go the USA Page at www.handgunlaw.us. Some military installations have shooting ranges. If the installation does have a shooting range, they will have rules about transporting firearms on that installation for the purpose of shooting at their Club/Range. Check with the proper military authorities at that installation about their firearms transport policy when they have a shooting club that allows civilians.

 # 18 Question: Do I need some type of training to get a permit to carry in my state? If Yes where do I get that training?

Answer: Some states require training and others don't. Some mandate different degrees of training. To find out if training is required on the main page at Handgunlaw.us click on the state on the main page map you wish info about. In the right column on the state page you select are links to that States Official Site. You can also read about applying for a permit/license on that states page. If Training is required the state official sites may list trainers on their site. If not check with your local Sheriff/Police. They can most likely tell you who does the training for Permit/License to Carry in your area if training is required..

 # 19 Question: What should I do when stopped by police in my vehicle?

Answer: Good guys/gals usually meet LEO's doing a traffic stop. If the blue lights come on slow down and put on your turn signal. This shows the officer you are looking for a safe place to pull over. If after dark turn on your interior lights right away. This lets the officer see into your vehicle. Get off the road as far as

possible. This gets you and the Officer as far from traffic as possible. Stay in the vehicle unless directed to get out by the officer. Keep your hands on the steering wheel at 10 & 2. Do not make any fast moves and tell the officer when you are going to reach for something and where you are going to have to reach to get it. Fast unexpected moves will only upset the officer.

 # 20 Question: Can you give me a description of what each section on the state pages means?

Answer: For a detailed explanation of each section on a states page click **"Here".**

 # 21 Question: What states non resident permits give me the most coverage?

Answer: Florida and Utah Permits/Licenses give the most states usually. To see what states Honor a states permit/license click on "Who Honors My Permit" in the left column on the main page at Handgunlaw.us. There you will see a listing of who honors each states permit. Then you can click on "Non Resident Permits" in the left column and see what states issue non resident permits. Just remember that as of this posting that, Maine, Florida, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Colorado and Michigan will only honor resident permits from the states they honor. These states will not honor a permit that is not issued by your state of residence.

 # 22 Question Can I carry on Corps of Engineer Formed Lakes?

Answer: I have talked directly with the Corps. The U.S. Corps of Engineers builds and runs many dams throughout the United States. The Corps buys up the land surrounding the area where the lake will be formed. It does lease some of this land back to States to make State Parks or other Recreation Areas on the lakes formed by the Corps Dam. The Corps has jurisdiction over all the waters backed up by the dam and the land surrounding the dam that they own. Carrying of firearms is only permitted for hunting purposes where hunting is allowed. The firearm carried must be legal for the type of hunting you are doing. The carry of Concealed Firearms is not legal on Corps Property.

#23 Question: Can I carry on Indian Reservations?

Answer: Yes and No. Reservations have their own Ordinances. Their Ordinances only apply to Indians living on the reservations but from everything I hear if they ban firearms and they catch you with one they will take it and throw you off the Reservation. You will most likely never get your firearm back. Look **"Here"** for more info on Native American Reservations.

#24 Question: Stand Your Ground/Castle Doctrine Laws

Answer: Some but not all states have what they call Stand Your Ground and/or Castle Doctrine Laws. These laws allow a person to use deadly force without retreating in most instances. Some state laws allow the use of deadly force in the home/property/automobile/on the street. Some just the Home. Some protect you from Criminal/Civil Court. Every state is just a little different and has a few different twists to its laws on this subject. You must know the law in the state you are in. Handgunlaw.us recommends that you retreat in all situations if you can do it **"Safely!"** Once a shootout starts anything can happen. Every firearms instructor I know will tell you the most important thing in any confrontation is, **"To Survive!"** The second most important thing is to survive without injuries. Retreating if it can be done **safely** is the best course of action to Survive and Survive without injuries. If you can't retreat safely and you fear for your life then you have every states law on self defense/Stand Your Ground/Castle Doctrine Laws to help protect you in Criminal/Civil Court. If you carry a firearm or have one in the home for home defense you should know your state laws concerning Self Defense/Stand Your Ground/Castle Doctrine.

#25 Question: What About Open Carry Laws in the different states. Why don't you put that info on your site?

Answer: When Steve and I set up Handgunlaw.us one aspect we decided on was to just cover Concealed Carry. We do supply a little open carry info in the "Open Carry" Section of each states page. It is tough enough to keep up with the concealed carry laws. There is already a site that supplies info on Open Carry. Check out www.opencarry.org. With any website, and that includes Handgunlaw.us you must confirm the info that website supplies. With Handgunlaw.us we strive to give you the most up to date info and also give you the links to states official sites to confirm that info.

#26 Question: Can a Medical Marijuana Prescription Exclude Me from Carrying/Possessing Firearms?

Answer: Yes. The BATFE put out a letter to all FFL Dealers on this very subject. With new laws in some states this is getting blurred. You can read that letter **Here**.

#27 Question: May a nonlicensee ship a firearm through the U.S. Postal Service? (From BATF FAQ)

Answer: A nonlicensee may not transfer a firearm to a non-licensed resident of another State. A nonlicensee may mail a shotgun or rifle to a resident of his or her own State or to a licensee in any State. The Postal Service recommends that long guns be sent by registered mail and that no marking of any kind which would indicate the nature of the contents be placed on the outside of any parcel containing firearms. Handguns are not mailable. A common or contract carrier must be used to ship a handgun. [18 U.S.C. 1715, 922(a)(3), 922(a)(5) and 922 (a)(2)(A)]

#28 Question: May a nonlicensee ship a firearm by common or contract carrier? (From BATF FAQ)

Answer: A nonlicensee may ship a firearm by a common or contract carrier to a resident of his or her own State or to a licensee in any State. A common or contract carrier must be used to ship a handgun. In addition, Federal law requires that the carrier be notified that the shipment contains a firearm and prohibits common or contract carriers from requiring or causing any label to be placed on any package indicating that it contains a firearm.

[18 U.S.C. 922(a)(2)(A), 922(a) (3), 922(a)(5) and 922(e), 27 CFR 478.31 and 478.30]

#29 Question: May a nonlicensee ship firearms interstate for his or her use in hunting or other lawful activity? (From BATF FAQ)

Answer: Yes. A person may ship a firearm to himself or herself in care of another person in the State where he or she intends to hunt or engage in any other lawful activity. The package should be addressed to the owner. Persons other than the owner should not open the package and take possession of the firearm.

#30 Question: Motorcycle Carry?

Answer: Motorcycles made for on road use and are licensed are considered a motor vehicle in all 50 states when being driven on a street or road. Being on a road legal motorcycle is the same as driving or riding in a Car. Riders on a road legal motorcycle would follow the same laws on transporting firearms on a motorcycle as a person would have to follow if driving or riding in a car. Any lockable compartment on a motorcycle or a compartment not readably accessible to the driver/passenger while driving or riding would be the same as those

areas of a car. Non licenses motorcycles (Dirt Bikes/ATV's) can have different laws/regs on the transportation of firearms.

#31 Question: Ask to Leave and Trespass?

Answer: Any Business/Homeowner/Private Property owner has the right to ask anyone to leave their Business/Home/Private Property. Same as you telling someone to leave your home. When a person who owns or is in charge of the property ask you to leave you must leave. If you don't leave then you are trespassing and can be charged with that offense. Arguing that you have rights etc is not a defense to an order to leave from those in control of the property. When ask to leave say, Yes Sir, and leave. That is their right.

#32 Question: Do Any States Limit the Number of Firearms I Can Carry or Restrict the Caliber of Firearm I Carry?

Answer: Only the state of New Mexico restricts those with a valid Permit/License in New Mexico from carrying more than one concealed handgun. You can carry as many as you want openly in New Mexico but only one concealed handgun. All other states have no limit on the number of handguns you can carry concealed with a valid Permit/License in that state. Only Oklahoma restricts the caliber of handgun you can carry. .45 max.

#33 Question: Can I carry/store a Long Gun in my Vehicle?

Answer: Carrying/storing a long gun in a vehicle varies from state to state. Handgunlaw.us has a document that lists each state and its laws on carrying/storing long guns in vehicles. You can access that document **Here.**

Updates to this Page.

11/21/14 – Questions Reviewed. Spelling/Grammar/Format Error Repaired.
11/28/14 – Note in PO Carry Q&A Updated.
12/3/14 - Question #32 Added.
3/1/15 – All Links Checked.
6/3/15 – Question #33 added.
7/1/15 – Question 5 Post Office Carry Updated with Appeals Ct Ruling Link Uphold PO Restrictions on Parking Lots.
3/27/16 – Question 5 Updated With Info on Carry on Post Office Property.
8/1/16 – All Links Checked.