

Tennessee

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer: **NO**

Links

[State CCW Site](#)

State CCW Pamphlet

CCW Application

[State FAQ Site](#)

[State Statutes](#)

[State Admin Rules](#)

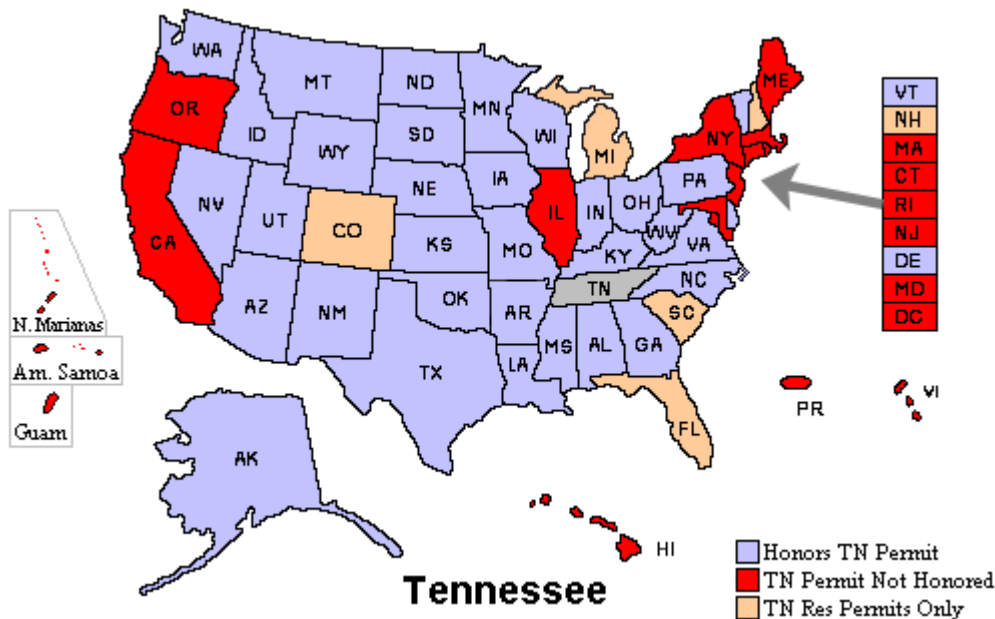
[State Reciprocity Info](#)

[State Attorney General](#)

[TN CCW Laws](#)

[Secretary of State](#)

Last Updated: 12/8/11



Permits/Licenses This State Honors

Tennessee honors all other states Permit/Licenses.

Tennessee Honors Non-Resident Permits/Licenses From the States They Honor.

How to Apply for A Permit

How Do I Obtain a Handgun Carry Permit?

To obtain a handgun carry permit in Tennessee, you must first successfully complete a Handgun Safety Course offered by a handgun safety school that is certified by the Department of Safety.

You should then make application at any full service [Driver Service Center](#). You will need to bring with you the original copy of your safety course completion certificate, [Proof of US Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residency](#), photo identification such as your Driver License, and \$115 **NON-REFUNDABLE** permit fee. This fee may be paid in cash, money order or with a certified check. If there are no problems with the application and you meet all eligibility requirements, you should receive your permit within 90 days of the date you submit your application.

When your application is processed at the Driver Service Center, you will be given instructions on being fingerprinted.

- **Effective July 1, 2005, all handgun permit applicants seeking a new permit must provide [Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residency](#).**

Even though a person has a permit and is authorized to possess or carry a firearm pursuant to T.C.A. 39-17-1315 or 39-17-1351, there are restrictions as to where firearms may be carried. Additional information pertaining to possession of and carrying a firearm are listed by [Tennessee Annotated Code and Subject Matter](#). More information can be obtained online from the [Tennessee Annotated Code Lookup](#)

www.handgunlaw.us

Processing

- Applications are received and reviewed in the Handgun Carry Permit Office.
- Proper documentation is forwarded to three (3) different agencies: (TBI, FBI, County Sheriff).
- Upon a name search approval from TBI, the permit can be issued within ninety (90) days from date of application.
- Upon issuance, the handgun carry permit will be mailed to the applicant.
- Incomplete applications cannot be processed.
- Fees Are Non-Refundable

Non-Resident Permits

Tennessee will issue Non-Resident Permit/Licenses to individuals who meet the qualifications as listed below.

39-17-1351. Handgun Carry Permits

(C) (i) If a person who is a resident of and handgun permit holder in another state is employed in this state on a regular basis and desires to carry a handgun in this state, the person shall have six (6) months from the last day of the sixth month of regular employment in this state to obtain a Tennessee handgun carry permit. The permit may be issued based on the person having a permit from another state provided the other state has substantially similar permit eligibility requirements as this state. However, if during the six-month period the person applies for a handgun permit in this state and the application is denied, the person shall not be allowed to carry a handgun in this state based upon the other state's permit.

(ii) The provisions of this subdivision (r)(3)(C) shall not apply if the state of residence of the person employed in Tennessee has entered into a handgun permit reciprocity agreement with this state pursuant to this subsection (r).

(iii) As used in this subdivision (r)(3)(C), “employed in this state on a regular basis” means a person has been gainfully employed in this state for at least thirty (30) hours a week for six (6) consecutive months not counting any absence from employment caused by the employee's use of sick leave, annual leave, administrative leave or compensatory time.

Places Off-Limits Even With A Permit/License

- Any room in which judicial proceedings are in progress.
- Any public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field or any other property owned, used or operated by any board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution.
- It is not an offense for a nonstudent adult to possess a firearm, if such firearm is contained within a private vehicle operated by the adult and is not handled by such adult, or by any other person acting with the express or implied consent of such adult, while such vehicle is on school property.
- If Posted on the grounds of any playground, civic center or other building facility, area or property owned, used or operated by any municipal, county or state government, or instrumentality thereof, for recreational purposes. **Note: 39-17-1311 (b)(iv) States:** A person may enter the property for the sole purpose of delivering or picking up passengers and who does not remove any weapon from the vehicle or utilize it in any manner.

- An individual, corporation, business entity or government entity or agent thereof is authorized to prohibit possession of weapons by any person otherwise authorized by this subsection, at meetings conducted by, or on premises owned, operated, managed or under control of such individual, corporation, business entity or government entity. Notice of such prohibition shall be posted in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the building, portion of the building or buildings where weapon possession is prohibited. Cities/Counties can post their parks.

39-17-1307, Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon.

(e) It is an exception to the application of this section that a person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351, is transporting a rifle or shotgun in or on a privately-owned motor vehicle, and the rifle or shotgun does not have ammunition in the chamber. However, such a person does not violate this section by inserting ammunition into the chamber if the ammunition is inserted for purposes of justifiable self-defense pursuant to §§ 39-11-611 or 39-11-612.

39-16-201. Introduction or Possession of Weapons, Explosives, Intoxicants or Drugs into a Penal Institution Where Prisoners are Quartered.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to:

(1) Knowingly and with unlawful intent take, send or otherwise cause to be taken into any penal institution where prisoners are quartered or under custodial supervision any weapons, ammunition, explosives, intoxicants, legend drugs, or any controlled substances found in chapter 17, part 4 of this title;

Land Between The Lakes (USDA Forest Service)

General Regulations:

12. Possession, transportation or discharge of firearms, air guns, crossbows, bows and arrows or other weapons and explosives, including fireworks, is prohibited except authorized hunting equipment during set hunt dates.

I received the following from:

Kathryn Harper
Manager, Communication Services
USDA Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area
www.lbl.org

Below is the information LE&I provides to the public in regards to possessing firearms at LBL NRA:

- 1. Possession of firearms is prohibited except during legal firearms hunting seasons by licensed hunters and going to and from the LBL NRA firearms range. Firearms must be cased and unloaded during transport.*
- 2. Firearms possessed during legal hunting seasons by licensed hunters must be cased and unloaded (chamber + magazine) while being transported in a motorized vehicle.*
- 3. LBL LE&I also states that the concealed firearms carry permit does not apply to LBL NRA at this time, although the LE officers at LBL will honor the concealed carry permit if there are no other aggravating*

circumstances. Examples of aggravating circumstances are, but not limited to, violation of the concealed carry permit itself, shooting from a roadway, or shooting outside of the LBL firearms range”.

Firearms on Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA Property)

4. Firearms and Weapons - TVA campgrounds may receive use by hunters during hunting season. While firearms and weapons are generally prohibited, possession of firearms and other weapons associated with in-season hunting excursions are permissible if they are unloaded and properly cased. **Possession of firearms at TVA public ramps, associated roads, and parking areas are allowed if the possession complies with the law of the state where the boat ramp is located and is not otherwise prohibited by law.**

Note: Day Use Areas, Campgrounds, and other developed recreational TVA lands are still off limits. TVA lands where Hunting is presently allowed, Undeveloped Shorelines, Boat Ramps, Boat Ramp Parking Areas and Associated Roads for those areas is where carry will be allowed.

The Tennessee AG has issued an Opinion stating:

Reading Tenn. Code Ann. §39-17-1309 together with Chapter 428 indicates that the legislature intended to allow handgun carry permit holders to carry their firearms into public parks except onto athletic fields and into other recreation areas at times when they are actually being used by schools.

(You can read the complete opinion by scrolling down to the Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases and click on “**Tennessee AG – Carry in Parks/Recreation Areas when School Function is going on.**”)

House Bill 770 was just signed by the Governor on or about 3/7/10 allowing bow hunters to carry their concealed defensive handgun with them while bow hunting. This law takes effect immediately.

Do “No Gun Signs” Have the Force of Law?

“YES”

39-17-1359. Prohibition at Certain Meetings — Posting Notice. —

(a) (1) An individual, corporation, business entity or local, state or federal government entity or agent thereof is authorized to prohibit the possession of weapons by any person who is at a meeting conducted by, or on property owned, operated, or managed or under the control of the individual, corporation, business entity or government entity.

(2) The prohibition in subdivision (a)(1) shall apply to any person who is authorized to carry a firearm by authority of § [39-17-1351](#)

(b) (1) Notice of the prohibition permitted by subsection (a) shall be accomplished by displaying one (1) or both of the notices described in subdivision (b)(3) in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the property, building, or portion of the property or building where weapon possession is prohibited. Either form of notice used shall be of a size that is plainly visible to the average person entering the building, property, or portion of the building or property, posted.

(2) The notice required by this section shall be in English, but a duplicate notice may also be posted in any language used by patrons, customers or persons who frequent the place where weapon possession is prohibited.

(3) (A) If a sign is used as the method of posting, it shall contain language substantially similar to the following:

AS AUTHORIZED BY T.C.A. § [39-17-1359](#), POSSESSION OF A WEAPON ON POSTED PROPERTY OR IN A POSTED BUILDING IS PROHIBITED AND IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

(B) As used in this section, “language substantially similar to” means the sign contains language plainly stating that:

(i) The property is posted under authority of Tennessee law;

(ii) Weapons or firearms are prohibited on the property, in the building, or on the portion of the property or building that is posted; and

(iii) Possessing a weapon in an area that has been posted is a criminal offense.

(C) A building, property or a portion of a building or property, shall be considered properly posted in accordance with this section if one (1) or both of the following is displayed in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the property, building, or portion of the property or building where weapon possession is prohibited:

(i) The international circle and slash symbolizing the prohibition of the item within the circle; or

(ii) The posting sign described in this subdivision (b)(3).

(c) (1) It is an offense to possess a weapon in a building or on property that is properly posted in accordance with this section.

(2) Possession of a weapon on posted property in violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by fine only of five hundred dollars (\$500).

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, reduce or eliminate any civil or criminal liability that a property owner or manager may have for injuries arising on their property.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to title [70](#) regarding wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

(f) This section shall not apply to the grounds of any public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality or instrumentality thereof. The carrying of firearms in those areas shall be governed by § [39-17-1311](#).

[Acts 1996, ch. 905, § 11; 2000, ch. 929, § 1; 2009, ch. 428, § 4; 2010, ch. 1009, § 3.]

Carry In State Parks/State & National Forests/WMA/Road Side Rest Areas

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: YES

State/National Forests: YES

WMA's & Public Hunting Areas: YES

Road Side Rest Areas: YES Unless Posted

RV/Car Carry Without A Permit/License

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License.

39-17-1307. Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon. —

(a) (1) A person commits an offense who carries with the intent to go armed a firearm, a knife with a blade length exceeding four inches (4"), or a club.

(2) (A) The first violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor, and, in addition to possible imprisonment as provided by law, may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(B) A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor.

39-17-1308. Defenses to Unlawful Possession or Carrying of a Weapon. —

(a) It is a defense to the application of § [39-17-1307](#) if the possession or carrying was:

(1) Of an unloaded rifle, shotgun or handgun not concealed on or about the person and the ammunition for the weapon was not in the immediate vicinity of the person or weapon;

State Preemption

39-17-1314. Local Regulation of Firearms and Ammunition Preempted by State Regulation - Actions Against Firearms or Ammunition Manufacturers, Trade Associations or Dealers.

(a) No city, county, or urban-county government shall occupy any part of the field of regulation of the transfer, ownership, possession or transportation of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or combinations thereof; provided, that the provisions of this section shall be prospective only and shall not affect the validity of any ordinance or resolution lawfully enacted before April 8, 1986.

(b) The general assembly declares that the lawful design, marketing, manufacture and sale of firearms and ammunition to the public are not unreasonably dangerous activities and do not constitute a nuisance per se.

(c) (1) The authority to bring suit and right to recover against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer by or on behalf of any state entity, county, municipality or metropolitan government for damages, abatement or injunctive relief resulting from or relating to the lawful design, manufacture, marketing or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public shall be reserved exclusively to the state.

(2) Nothing in this subsection (c) shall be construed to prohibit a county, municipality, or metropolitan government from bringing an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer or dealer for breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by such county, municipality, or metropolitan government.

(3) Nothing in this subsection (c) shall preclude an individual from bringing a cause of action for breach of a written contract, breach of an express warranty, or for injuries resulting from defects in the materials or workmanship in the manufacture of the firearm.

(d) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply in any litigation brought by an individual against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer.

[Acts 1989, ch. 591, § 1; 1999, ch. 293, §§ 1, 2.]

Deadly Force Laws

- 39-11-601. Justification a defense.
- 39-11-602. Justification definitions.
- 39-11-603. Confinement as justifiable force.
- 39-11-604. Reckless injury of innocent third person.
- 39-11-605. Civil remedies unaffected.
- 39-11-609 . Necessity.
- 39-11-610. Public duty.
- 39-11-611. Self-defense.
- 39-11-612. Defense of third person.
- 39-11-613. Protection of life or health.
- 39-11-614. Protection of property.
- 39-11-615. Protection of third person's property.
- 39-11-616. Use of device to protect property.
- 39-11-620. Use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer.
- 39-11-621. Use of deadly force by private citizen.
- 39-11-622. Justification for use of force — Exceptions — Immunity from civil liability.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click [“Here”](#)

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES

Note: A “YES” above means you can carry into places like described below. “NO” means you can’t. Handgunlaw.us definition of “Restaurant Carry” is carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol. Places like Friday’s. Chili’s or Red Lobster. This may or may not mean the bar or the bar area of a restaurant. But you can carry your firearm into a restaurant that serves alcohol and sit and eat without consuming. Handgunlaw.us recommends you not sit at the Bar or in the Bar area of such restaurants. In some states it is illegal to be in the Bar area of such restaurants. Handgunlaw.us believes you should never consume alcohol when carrying your firearm. In some states it is illegal to take even one drink while carrying a firearm. If you want further info on carrying in places that serve alcohol check your state laws.

Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

Handgunlaw.us could find no restrictions in Tennessee Law concerning Chemical Sprays, Stun Guns Or Higher Capacity Magazine Bans.

LEOSA State Information

[State LEOSA Info](#)

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- [Tennessee AG - Open/Concealed Carry ruling](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Possession on Government Owned Property](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Parks and Playgrounds](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Park Buildings](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Posting of Private Buildings](#)
- [Tennessee AG – Clarification on Carrying In Parks During School Function](#)
- [Tennessee AG – Carry in Parks/Recreation Areas when School Function is going on.](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Landlords can ban firearms possession by renters on rental property.](#)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Airport Carry: Building/Lots must be posted for law to apply § 39-17-1359.

Training Valid for: 6 Months.

Time Period to Establish Residency: 30 Days

Minimum Age for Permit/License: 21

Permit/License Info Public Information: Yes

State Fire arm Laws: 39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1361

State Deadly Force Laws: 39-11-611

State Knife Laws: 39-17-1397 & 39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1310

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: 39-13-803

Body Armor Laws: 39-17-1323

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **NO** 39-17-1351.

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? **Yes** TN Wildlife Resources Agency Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Notes

What Does TN Consider A Loaded Firearm?

[39-17-1319](#) & [39-17-1301](#)

(18) “Unloaded” means the rifle, shotgun or handgun does not have ammunition in the chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine, and no clip or magazine is in the immediate vicinity of the weapon.

Permit/License Image

I do not know if there is any information on the reverse of this Permit.



This image has been digitally assembled from 2 or more images. It may not be 100% accurate but gives a good representation of the actual Permit/License.

Updates to this Page

- 7/15/09 – Carry in Parking lots when dropping off or picking up people on St. Gov. Property Info Added.
 - 7/26/09 - Map Updated
 - 7/28/09 – AG opinion added on Carry in Parks/Recreation Areas when School Function is going on.
 - 8/4/09 – Reference removed about Parks being Off Limits by law.
 - 8/22/09 – All links checked and repaired if needed.
 - 8/31/09 - NE now honors a TN permit.
 - 9/1/09 – Removed reference to carry in places that serve alcohol that was the old law.
 - 9/4/09 – WMA are legal to carry in. The new law only applied to carrying Hunting guns in WMA’s
 - 9/23/09 - Link to AG Opinion Repaired
 - 10/31/09 - AG Opinion on Landlords banning firearms on their property added.
 - 11/4/09 – Long gun into in automobiles added to Places off Limits. Link Repaired.
 - 11/6/09 – Wording and Law link added to Long gun carry in autos. How to apply wording on proving citizenship updated.
 - 11/16/09 – Regulation on carrying on Land Between the Lakes Added to Places off Limits.
 - 11/20/09 – Carry in places that serve alcohol has been ruled unconstitutional. Places off limits updated.
 - 2/22/10 – Reference about LBL being run by Corp of Eng. Was not removed when LBL info was updated on 11/16/09
 - 3/6/10 – AG Opinion Added. Carry in Parks better explained.
 - 3/9/10 – Bow Hunters can now carry their concealed defensive firearm while bow hunting.
 - 4/25/10 – Land Between the Lakes info Added that Carry with CCW will be honored.
 - 6/5/10 – Governor Veto overridden on HB3125/SB3012. Restaurant Carry Section changed to YES.
 - 6/22/10 – Citation on LBL removed as outdated.
 - 7/5/10 – Taking weapons into prisons added to Places Off Limits.
 - 8/11/10 – Links Repaired and all links checked.
 - 10/21/10 – Deadly Force Laws Section Updated. Notes Section Added. Places Off Limits New Wording on posting law added.
 - 1/1/11 – IA Now Honors TN. Permit/License Image Added.
 - 4/5/11- LBL Reg Link Updated. All Links Checked.
 - 4/17/11 – Information on carrying while hunting added.
 - 7/22/11 – Broken Links Repaired. Dept of Safety Moved Files.
 - 8/21/11 – Washington Now Honors A Tennessee Permit/License.
- www.handgunlaw.us

9/9/11 – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.

11/1/11 – WI Added as State That Honors TN.

12/8/11 Firearms on TVA Property Information added.