



1. Completing any hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or a similar agency of another state;
2. Completing any National Rifle Association firearms safety or training course;
3. Completing any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by a law-enforcement agency, junior college, college, or private or public institution or organization or firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the Department of Criminal Justice Services;
4. Completing any law-enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of law enforcement or security enforcement;
5. Presenting evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competition or current military service or proof of an honorable discharge from any branch of the armed services;
6. Obtaining or previously having held a license to carry a firearm in this Commonwealth or a locality thereof, unless such license has been revoked for cause;
7. Completing any firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified or National Rifle Association-certified firearms instructor;
8. Completing any governmental police agency firearms training course and qualifying to carry a firearm in the course of normal police duties; or
9. Completing any other firearms training which the court deems adequate.

A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes; an affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught such course or class attesting to the completion of the course or class by the applicant; or a copy of any document which shows completion of the course or class or evidences participation in firearms competition shall constitute evidence of qualification under this subsection.

No applicant shall be required to submit to any additional demonstration of competence, nor shall any proof of demonstrated competence expire.

The court shall charge a fee of \$10.00 for the processing of an application or issuing of a permit. Local law enforcement agencies may charge a fee not to exceed \$35.00 to cover the cost of conducting an investigation pursuant to this Code section. The State Police may charge a fee not to exceed \$5.00 to cover the cost associated with processing the application. The total amount of the charges may not exceed \$50.00, and payment may be made by any method accepted by the court.

No fee shall be charged for the issuance of a permit to a person who has retired from service as a magistrate in the Commonwealth, as a special agent with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board or as a law-enforcement officer with the Department of State Police, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, or a sheriff or police department, bureau or force of any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, as a law-enforcement officer with the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Secret Service Agency, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Customs Service, Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, U.S. Marshals Service or Naval Criminal Investigative Service, after completing 15 years of service or after reaching age 55; as a law-enforcement officer with any police or sheriff's department within the United States, the District of Columbia or any of the territories of the United States, after completing 15 years of service; or as a credentialed intelligence agent of the armed forces of the United States or of a civilian agency of the United States government, after completing 15 years of service; or as a law-enforcement officer with any combination of the agencies listed in clauses (ii) through (iv), after completing 15 years of service.

The court shall issue the permit within 45 days of receipt of the completed application unless it appears that the applicant is disqualified.

The person issued a permit or in possession of a de facto permit must have the permit on his person at all times during which he is carrying a concealed handgun and must display the permit and a photo-identification issued by a government agency of the Commonwealth or by the United States Department of Defense or United States State Department upon demand by a law enforcement officer.

## Non-Resident Permits

Request an Application Package by contacting the Virginia State Police Firearms Transaction Center in writing at the below address or on-line at [nonrespermit@vsp.virginia.gov](mailto:nonrespermit@vsp.virginia.gov). All written requests must include the applicant's complete name and mailing address. A telephone number is also requested. Send written requests to:

Firearms Transaction Center  
Nonresident CHP Permits  
Criminal Justice Information Services Division  
Department of State Police  
P.O. Box 85141  
Richmond, VA 23285-5141

The Application Package will include a Concealed Handgun Permit Application, requirement and qualification information, a fingerprint card, a brochure on Virginia Firearms Safety and Laws, and a return envelope for the completed application.

Complete Information [“Here”](#).

## Places Off-Limits Even With A Permit/License

- No person shall carry a concealed handgun onto the premises of any restaurant or club as defined in §4.1-100 for which a license to sell and serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption has been granted by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board under Title 4.1 of the Code of Virginia, nothing herein shall prohibit any owner or event sponsor or his employees from carrying a concealed handgun while on duty at such restaurant or club if such person has a concealed handgun permit. NOTE: only **concealed** handguns are prohibited - openly carried handguns are allowed
- Private property when prohibited by the owner of the property, or where posted as prohibited. Violation is a trespass charge and not a firearms violation
- Carrying dangerous weapon to place of religious worship while a meeting for religious purposes is being held unless you have "good and sufficient reason." There is no known definition of what a good and sufficient reason would be. Violation is a minor crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$100.
- Courthouse. Violation is a high-level misdemeanor
- School property/school functions (School busses are school property) unless gun is unloaded, in an enclosed container (but NOT in the glove box or console) and in the vehicle. A car's trunk **is** considered an enclosed container. **However**, a concealed handgun permit holder **can** have a loaded, concealed handgun in the vehicle while in the school parking lot, traffic circle, etc. The concealed handgun and the permit holder must stay in the vehicle. Firearms are not banned from property open to the public where a school function is being held unless that property is being used exclusively for the school function. Violation of this statute is a felony
- Virginia Commonwealth University (8VAC90-10-50). Violation is a trespass charge

- Non-secure areas of airport terminals are off limits unless you are a passenger and you have your gun unloaded, in a locked container in your checked luggage, and declare the gun at the check-in counter. Violation is a high-level misdemeanor.
- Regional Jail or Juvenile Detention Facility.

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

### Carry Allowed in these Areas:

**State Parks:** YES 4VAC5-30-200

**State/National Forests:** YES 4VAC15-40-60

**WMA's:** YES 4VAC15-270-60

**Road Side Rest Areas:** YES

## RV/Car Carry Without A Permit/License

Open carry is legal in Virginia and carry in a vehicle without a permit is legal but the firearm must be totally visible. Do be advised that carrying a firearm openly will draw the attention of any Police Officer.

## State Preemption

**§ 15.2-915.** Control of firearms; applicability to authorities and local governmental agencies.

**A.** No locality shall adopt or enforce any ordinance, resolution or motion, as permitted by § 15.2-1425, and no agent of such locality shall take any administrative action, governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof other than those expressly authorized by statute. For purposes of this section, a statute that does not refer to firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, shall not be construed to provide express authorization.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit a locality from adopting workplace rules relating to terms and conditions of employment of the workforce. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101 from acting within the scope of his duties.

The provisions of this section applicable to a locality shall also apply to any authority or to a local governmental entity, including a department or agency, but not including any local or regional jail or juvenile detention facility.

**B.** Any local ordinance, resolution or motion adopted prior to the effective date of this act governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, other than those expressly authorized by statute, is invalid.

## Deadly Force Laws

Unknown

## Knife Laws State/Cities

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

## Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

**YES/NO** (See both Notes Below)

**Note:** In Virginia it is illegal to carry a concealed firearm into any establishment (Even with a valid Permit/License to Carry) that sells alcohol for consumption on the premises. The law does allow the open carrying of firearms into an establishment that sells alcohol for consumption on the premises. (If you open carry make sure it is in a visible Holster)

**Note:** What is defined as carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol is a place like Friday’s or Red Lobster. This does not mean a bar or the bar area of a restaurant. 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.

## Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

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

## LEOSA State Information

[Virginia LEOSA Information 1](#)

[Virginia LEOSA Information 2](#)

[Virginia LEOSA Qualification](#)

## Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

[Virginia AG - Student Carry](#)

## Airport Carry/Misc. Information

**Airport Carry:** Terminal Off Limits. Parking Lot OK § 18.2-287.01. Dulles Airport Toll Road is under the authority of MWAA along with Ronald Reagan and Dulles Airports most likely Off Limits even parking lots. (I would check with local authorities as I have been hearing that these two airports are on Federal Property.

**Training Valid for:** No set time limit.

**Time Period to Establish Residency:** Upon obtaining a Virginia Drivers License/ID.

**Minimum Age for Permit/License:** 21

**Permit/License Info Public Information: Partial**

**State Fire arm Laws: 18.2-279 thru 18.2-312**

**State Deadly Force Laws: None Found.**

**State Knife Laws: 18.2-308 & 18.2-308.1 & 18.2-311**

**Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: 18.2-308.1, 308.2. and 312**

**Body Armor Laws: § 18.2-287.2 & -288**

**Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? NO 18.2-308.**

## Updates to this Page

**5/27/09** – SD added as state that VA honors.

**7/7/09** – Reciprocity Map changed to show that WV will honor non resident permit/licenses. VA now honors DE

**8/23/09** – All links checked and repaired if needed.

**8/31/09** – NE now honors a VA Permit/License.

**9/14/09** – Virginia now honors a NE Permit/License.

**10/7/09** - VA now honors a ND Permit/License

**1/14/10** – Permit Info Public Updated