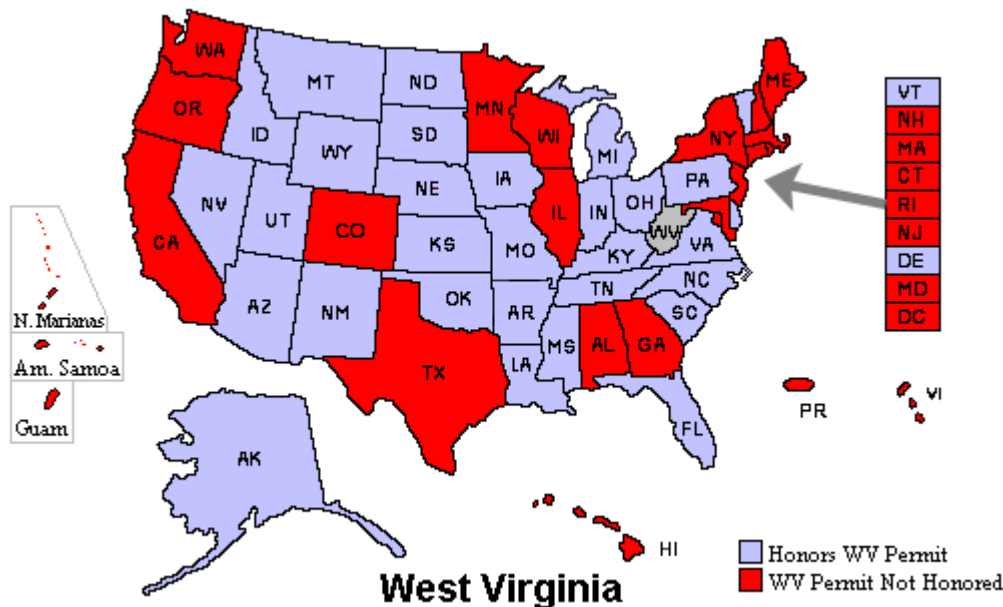


West Virginia

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer: **NO**



Links

[State CCW Site](#)

[State CCW Pamphlet](#)

[CCW Application](#)

[St. FAQ's](#) [SP FAQ's](#)

[State Statutes](#)

[State Admin Rules](#)

[State Reciprocity Info](#)

[State Attorney General](#)

[2nd CCW Info Site](#)

[WV Firearm Laws](#)

Last Updated: 2/1/12

Permits/Licenses This State Honors

Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	Delaware	Kansas
Kentucky	Florida	New Mexico	Ohio	Oklahoma
Pennsylvania	Louisiana	Michigan	Mississippi	Missouri
New Mexico	North Carolina	North Dakota	South Carolina	South Dakota
Tennessee	Utah	Virginia	Wyoming	

West Virginia will honor Resident and Non Resident Permit/Licenses from the states they honor.
(Must be 21 years of age or older)

How to Apply for A Permit

Complete any NRA firearms safety course (You must fire a handgun as part of the class). Take the course certificate plus your West Virginia Drivers License/ID to the Sheriff's Office in the county you reside. Ask for an application and fill out application and pay \$75 cash or check. They will contact you when your Permit/License is available for pickup. When you pick up your permit you must pay an additional \$15 for the state notifications that they will make. They may charge you the whole \$90 when you apply. The Permit/License is valid for 5 years. The WV State Police are given the information on who has been issued Permit/Licenses as they have a toll free 800 number that can be accessed to verify that any permit is valid.

Non-Resident Permits

West Virginia does not issue Permit/Licenses to Non-Residents.

Places Off-Limits Even With A Permit/License

§61-7-11a.

- Court Houses.

- Family Law Masters Office.
- Magistrates Office.
- Primary and Secondary School Property including School buses.
- Any facility that is being used for a Primary or Secondary School Function while that function is going on.
- Vocational Education Building
- Any where a sign is posted saying no Firearms Allowed. The signs do not have to be of any set size or design.
- Regional jails, detention facilities or State Division of Corrections facilities and their grounds.
- Any property where firearms are prohibited by the owner or operator.

The West Virginia AG in his [CCW Brochure](#) states that the following are off limits areas in WV in addition to the areas listed above. I can not find this place listed in WV law.

- Law Enforcement Offices or Stations.

Note: The following Cities were grandfathered when the Carry Law was passed in West Virginia. These are the only cities in the state that have Ordinances with the force of law against the carrying and/or possession of firearms outside the state restrictions.

§61-6-19. WV Capitol Building and Grounds.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to bring upon the state capitol complex any weapon as defined by the provisions of section two, article seven of this chapter.

Charleston WV Local Ordinance. (This ordinance was grandfathered when WV passed their Carry Laws.)

Sec. 78-165. Carrying weapons upon municipal public property. It shall be unlawful for any person to carry on or about his person any revolver or pistol, dirk, bowie knife, slingshot, razor, billy, metallic or other false knuckles, or other dangerous or deadly weapon of like kind or character in or upon city hall, municipal auditorium, the civic center, and all parks and recreation buildings and facilities, including recreation centers, playgrounds, swimming pools, dressing areas, tennis courts, parks and recreation areas and all other buildings, structures, facilities, and grounds thereof, owned or occupied by the City of Charleston; however, the provisions of this section shall not apply to city, county, state and federal law enforcement officers and to exhibitors and performers at city-sanctioned events who obtain advance written authorization from the chief of police. (Ord. No. 4941, 4-19-1993; Bill No. 7103, 12-6-2004)

Dunbar WV Local Ordinance (This ordinance was grandfathered when WV passed their Carry Laws.)

545.13 Weapons at Municipal Buildings and Parks

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person armed with a firearm or other dangerous weapon, including those which have been licensed but excepting those lawfully issued to members of a Federal, State, County or Municipal Law Enforcement Department to carry, brandish, or holster such weapon at Dunbar City Hall.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person armed with a firearm or other dangerous weapon including those which have been licensed but excepting those lawfully issued to members of a Federal, State, County or

Municipal Law Enforcement Department to carry, brandish, holster or store such weapon at any City municipal building or any City owned park.

(c) A sign shall be posted at Dunbar City Hall and other municipal buildings and parks which shall read as follows:

Notice

All Persons Entering This Building Are Subject To Search:

Any And All Weapons Or Contraband Will Be Confiscated With The Potential Of Criminal Prosecution.

- Weapons Subject To Confiscation -

Revolvers, Pistols, Rifles, Shotguns, Dirk, Blackjack, Knife (Except Those Knives Being Utilized As A Utensil At A Picnic Or Party, Or Those Knives Used As An Work Instrument By Employees Or Contractors), Sling Shot, Razor, Billy, Metallic Or False Knuckles, Tear Gas, Or Other Deadly Weapon Of Like Character Or Any Facsimile Thereof That Is Intended Or Readily Adaptable For Use Which May Produce Death Or Serious Bodily Harm.

(d) Whoever violates this section shall, for a first offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(e) If any portion of this section is found to be unconstitutional or unlawful for any reason those portions which are not deemed unconstitutional or unlawful shall be severed and shall retain their full force and meaning. (Ord. 566. Passed 9-3-96.)

South Charleston, WV Local Ordinance (This ordinance was grandfathered when WV passed their Carry Laws.)

545.15 Possession of Weapon Prohibited on City Property.

No person other than an authorized law enforcement official shall bring into or have in his possession in any City-owned building, park or recreation area, any revolver, pistol, dirk, bowie knife, razor, gunshot, billy, metallic or other false knuckles, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon of like kind or character. (Ord. 1867. Passed 11-3-94.)

Do "No Gun Signs" Have the Force of Law?

"NO"

"Handgunlaw.us highly recommends that you not enter a place that is posted "No Firearms" no matter what the state laws read/mean on signage. We recommend you print out the [No Guns = No Money Cards](#) and give one to the owner of the establishment that has the signage." As responsible gun owners and upholders of the 2nd Amendment we should also honor the rights of property owners to control their own property even if we disagree with them."

"No Firearm" signs in West Virginia have no force of law unless they are posted on property that is specifically mentioned in State Law as being off limits to those with a Permit/License to Carry. If you are in a place not specifically mentioned in the law that is posted and they ask you to leave, you must leave. If you refuse to leave then you are breaking the law and can be charged. Even if the property is not posted and you

are asked to leave you must leave. Always be aware of the possibility that responding Police Officers who may have been called without your knowledge and may not know the laws on trespass etc. could arrest you even if you are within the law.

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: YES Per WVDNR

State/National Forests: YES Per WVDNR

WMA's: YES Per WVDNR

Road Side Rest Areas: YES §61-7-11a.

RV/Car Carry Without A Permit/License

From the WV Attorney Generals "[A Guide to Concealed Weapons Laws of West Virginia](#)" (Page 4)

While West Virginia is an "Open Carry" state, only residents of West Virginia may do so.

From the West Virginia State [Police FAQ Page](#):

Q. Is it lawful to carry weapons (e.g. rifles, shotguns, and pistols) in my vehicle when I travel in West Virginia?

A. Individuals who possess a valid concealed carry permit may carry a concealed handgun in a motor vehicle for purpose of self-defense only. West Virginia permits anyone who can lawfully possess a handgun to carry an unconcealed handgun. If you choose to carry an unconcealed handgun in your vehicle and are stopped by a law-enforcement officer, you must understand that that the weapon will immediately attract the attention of the police officer. The presence of the weapon may lead to action by the officer to ensure his or her safety such as the drawing of his or her weapon, ordering you from the vehicle, and/or performing a pat-down search. Weapons intended for hunting must be unloaded and in a case when transported in a vehicle. It is strongly recommended that, if you do not have a valid concealed carry permit, while traveling in a vehicle, that all firearms be unloaded and cased in a location in the vehicle that is not readily accessible to any of the occupants. Any ammunition should be stored in a separate location from the firearm.

State Preemption

§8-12-5a. Limitations Upon Municipalities' Power to Restrict The Purchase, Possession, Transfer, Ownership, Carrying, Transport, Sale and Storage of Certain Weapons and Ammunition.

The provisions of section five of this article notwithstanding, neither a municipality nor the governing body of any municipality may limit the right of any person to purchase, possess, transfer, own, carry, transport, sell or store any revolver, pistol, rifle or shotgun or any ammunition or ammunition components to be used therewith nor to so regulate the keeping of gunpowder so as to directly or indirectly prohibit the ownership of the ammunition.

Nothing herein shall in any way impair the authority of any municipality, or the governing body thereof, to enact any ordinance or resolution respecting the power to arrest, convict and punish any individual under the provisions of subdivision (16), section five of this article or from enforcing any such ordinance or resolution: Provided, That any municipal ordinance in place as of the effective date of this section shall be excepted

from the provisions of this section: Provided, however, That no provision in this section may be construed to limit the authority of a municipality to restrict the commercial use of real estate in designated areas through planning or zoning ordinances.

Deadly Force Laws

§55-7-22. Civil relief for persons resisting certain criminal activities. (Castle Doctrine)

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 West Virginia Law concerning Chemical Sprays, Stun Guns Or Higher Capacity Magazine Bans.

LEOSA State Information

[LEOSA Application For Retired Member Handgun Authorization \(From the WV State Police\)](#)

[LEOSA Information From the West Virginia Attorney General](#) (Go to page 8)

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

[West Virginia Supreme Court - Supreme Court decision, Defense of Others](#)

[WV Supreme Court – No Duty to Retreat in your Home](#)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Airport Carry: No laws found.

Training Valid for: No set time limit.

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

Minimum Age for Permit/License: 21 (18 if required for employment)

Permit/License Info Public Information: YES

State Fire arm Laws: 61-7-1 thru 61-7-15 & 20-2-6a

State Deadly Force Laws: §55-7-22.

State Knife Laws: 61-7-2

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: No laws found.

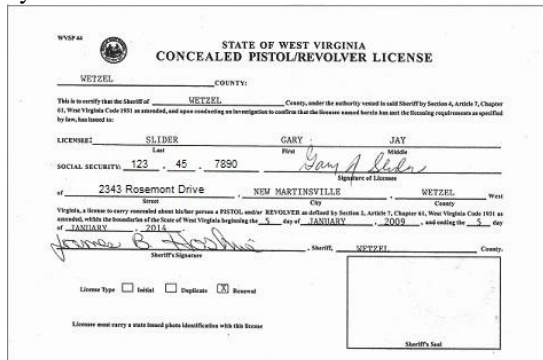
Body Armor Laws: 61-7-15.

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? WV code says weapons but License says Revolver/Pistol. Sheriff Says just Revolver/Pistol

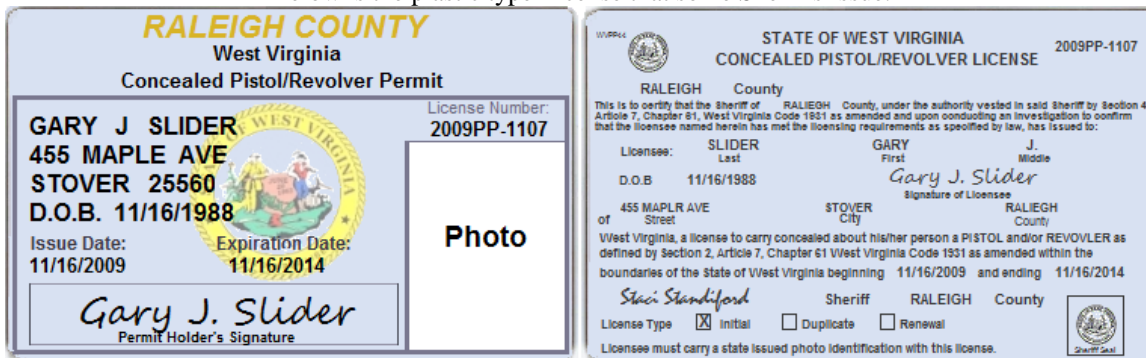
Is carrying a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? Yes WV Dept of Nat Recourses General Regulations

Permit/License Image

County Sheriffs issue Licenses in WV. There is no set format for the license in WV. This image is a paper/laminated license. The back is blank. This is an actual scan of my WV License.



Below is the plastic type License that some Sheriffs Issue.



This image has been digitally assembled. It may not be 100% accurate but gives a good representation of the actual Permit/License. Do notice that it says Permit on the front and License on the back.

Notes

What Does WV Consider A Loaded Firearm?

[DNR Hunting Regulations](#)

Have a crossbow with a nocked bolt, a loaded firearm or a firearm with an attached magazine from which all shells have not been removed in or on any vehicle or conveyance (including ATVs) or its attachments. You can have a loaded clip or magazine in the vehicle as long as it is not in or attached to the firearm. Exception for concealed weapons permit holders (see page 5).

Updates to this Page

- 7/1/09** – NV now honors a WV Permit/License.
- 7/10/09** - WV removed restriction on only honoring resident permits from the states they honor.
Supreme Ct ruling on retreating in your home added
- 7/27/09** - Charleston WV off limits places added to Off Limits Areas.
- 8/22/09** – LEOSA Info Added. All links checked and repaired if needed.
- 8/31/09** – NE now honors a WV Permit/License.
- 9/10/09** – ND now honors a WV Permit/License.
- 9/29/09** – LEOSA Link Added. Places Off Limits Updated with places AG lists.
- 10/13/09** - ND added as a state that WV Honors.
- 11/20/09** – WV Sign Reciprocity Agreement with DE.
- 12/28/09** – Places off Limits updated. Age to obtain permit Updated with 18 if needed for Employment.
- 1/31/10** – Places off limits updated with Dunbar, South Charleston Info.
- 8/11/10** – All links checked and updated as necessary.
- 8/24/10** - WV & WY Sign reciprocity agreement.
- 10/18/10** – Deadly Force Law Section Updated. Notes Section Added.
- 1/1/11** - IA Now Honors WV. Permit/License Image Added.
- 1/14/11** – SP FAQ's link Added. (State Police FAQ's) Places Off Limits Wording updated so easier to understand.
- 1/20/11** - 2nd Image of WV License added.
- 4/5/11** – All Links Checked.
- 4/17/11** – Information on carrying while hunting added.
- 9/9/11** – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.
- 11/1/11** – RV/Car Carry Section Updated with statement from AG stating that only residents can open carry in WV.
- 11/14/11** – WV and New Mexico Now Honor Each Other.
- 11/18/11** – Link to Application and State Police FAQ's Updated
- 12/23/11** – Broken Links Repaired.
- 2/1/12** – WV Now Honors Kansas.