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[Last Updated: 9/10/2024](#)

Handgunlaw.us FAQs

[Links Checked: 3/15/2025](#)

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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. Also See [Quirks In Reciprocity](#)

#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: YES

Notice: United States Dist. Court, Middle Dist. of FL, Tampa Division issued a [Ruling](#) on 1/13/2024 stating that the federal law stating Post Offices Property is Off Limits is Unconstitutional. **This ruling only applies to the defendant at this time.** This ruling will be appealed by the Federal Government and a stay could be granted at any time. Use Caution as the issuing of a stay could come at any time! Handgunlaw.us will post more information as it becomes available

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 it became legal. You can legally carry a 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 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. Good Article on how to fly with Firearms. [Guide To Flying With Guns](#)

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. Whether you have to inform an officer or not is listed at the top of every state page. You can also view this listing of [States that Require Notification](#) on Contact.

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. If carrying under Permitless Carry Do carry a photo ID.

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.

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, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and South Carolina 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: Military Installations are off limits to civilians carrying or even transporting unloaded in their vehicle firearms in most instances. Every base has its own rules on who can legally carry on the base. There is more information with links on the [USA Page](#) under the Military Personnel header that will better answer this question.

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.

Two short Videos that talk about and demonstrate how to handle yourself doing a traffic stop.

Massad Ayoob and [“Tips When Stopped By Police and Carrying a Firearm”](#)
Freedom Firearms CPL Training [“How to Handle a Traffic Stop When Armed”](#)

20 Question: How do I navigate the site and the state pages?

Answer: For a detailed explanation of how to navigate the site click [“Here”](#)

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: Arizona, 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, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, 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?

Notice: 1/1/19 - With Court rulings and other suits against their No Carry Regulations it looks like the Corps is not going to change their regulations but going to just give permission as can already do as stated in their regulations. ([36 CFR 327.13](#) – Explosives, firearms, other weapons and fireworks) The Corps has sent out a “**Guidance Memorandum**” to District Commanders explaining to them what is needed for them to give permission for an individual to carry on Corps Property. The memorandum states the District Commander has “**Discretion**” to issue permission to carry. You would have to contact a District Commander to apply for such permission. Handgunlaw.us can find no form to fill out or even info on how to apply other than the Guidance Memorandum sent out to District Commanders that you can read [Here](#). It looks to Handgunlaw.us like they are adopting a May Issue policy that the Courts have ruled is constitutional and not adopting the Interior Dept Policy (National Parks).

Without Permission:

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. See [Stand Your Ground/Brandishing Document](#).

#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. With any website, and that includes Handgunlaw.us you must confirm the info that website supplies.

#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 street legal motorcycle is the same as driving or riding in a car. Riders on a street 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 or any other street legal vehicle. 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 or Amount of Ammunition I can Carry?

Answer: Hawaii, New Mexico and Puerto Rico restricts those with a valid Permit/License from carrying more than one concealed handgun. New Jersey only allows the carrying of 2 concealed handguns. 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](#).

#34 Question: Can I Carry on a College/University Campus?

Answer: There are many answers to this question. It depends on the State the College/University is located. If it is Public or Private. If you are a student at the school or a visitor and even others allow carry in only certain places on campus. Check the states page at www.handgunlaw.us where the school is located. Check the listing of Places Off Limits and Parking Lot Storage Sections. Some states statutes make those institutions off limits while others allow a firearm to be stored in the locked vehicle while parked on school property with others allowing carry by non-students and others even allowing carry by students. Some have Policies without a

state law forbidding carry that would get a student of the school expelled while a visitor would be ask to leave. Another good source for information on College/University Carry is the [Armed Campus Organization](#).

#35 Question: Do States Have Grace Periods to Renew an Expired Carry License and Are They Still Valid?

Answer: Some states will consider their permit/license to carry valid for a certain time after the expiration date on the permit. **Some will not.** Some give more time to active military stationed outside the country or outside the state. **Some will not!** If you are carrying on a permit from a state that has a grace period to renew and your permit/license is past its expiration date don't expect other states that honor that permit/license to also honor that grace period your state has. To most Police Officers the expiration date on the permit/license means the permit/license is no longer valid. They can't expect Law Enforcement to know the laws/regulations of all the other states.

#36 Question: Definition of Public and Private Property

Answer: Private Property ([Cornell Law School Definition](#))

Private Property: property owned by private parties - essentially anyone or anything other than the government. Private property may consist of real estate, buildings, objects, intellectual property (for example, copyrights or patents).

This is distinguished from Public Property, which is owned by the state or government or municipality.

#37 Question: Executive Actions vs Executive Orders

Answer: Executive actions - Executive actions are any informal proposals or moves by the president. The term executive action itself is vague and can be used to describe almost anything the president calls on Congress or his administration to do. **But many executive actions carry no legal weight.** Those that do actually set policy can be invalidated by the courts or undone by legislation passed by Congress. The terms executive action and executive order are not interchangeable. Executive orders are legally binding and published in the Federal Register, though they also can be reversed by the courts and Congress. A good way to think of executive actions is a wish list of policies the president would like to see enacted.

Executive Orders - An Executive Order is a signed, written, and published directive from the President of the United States that manages operations of the federal government. Executive orders are not legislation; they require no approval from Congress, and Congress cannot simply overturn them. Congress may pass legislation that might make it difficult, or even impossible, to carry out the order, such as removing funding. Only a sitting U.S. President may overturn an existing executive order by issuing another executive order to that effect.

Updates to this Page.

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7/1/2022 – Link For Article on Flying With Firearms Added to Question 10 Answer.

8/2/2022 – Question 32 Undated With Information on Amount of Ammo You Can Carry in DC.

8/26/2022 – All Links Checked.

7/1/2023 – Question 32 Updated with Addition of More Jurisdictions That Limit the Number of Firearms You Can Carry. All Links Checked.

11/21/2023 - All Links Checked.

1/9/2024 - All Links Checked.

1/15/2024 – Question 5, Post Office Carry Updated.

1/20/2024 – Question 5, Post Office Carry Updated.

7/31/2024 – All Links Checked.

9/6/2024 – All External Links, Statutes and Admin Rules Quoted Have Been Checked and are up to Date and Point to the Most Up to Date Edition of that Statute/Admin Rule and/or Document.

11/1/2024 – All Links Checked.

3/15/2025 – All Links Checked.

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