Pennsylvania

Shall Issue: Must Inform Officer Immediately: NO
(See Must Inform Section Below)

Note: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Vermont and West Virginia have “Permitless Carry.” Anyone who can legally possess a firearm may carry it concealed in these states without a Permit/License. Check each states page for more information and any restrictions that may apply.

Idaho, North Dakota and Wyoming have “Permitless Carry” for their Residents only.

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

Notice: Pennsylvania only honors permits from Residents of the states it honors.

Must be 21 Years of Age to carry concealed in Pennsylvania.

Alabama  Alaska  Arizona  Arkansas  Colorado
Florida  Georgia  Idaho¹  Indiana  Iowa
Kansas  Kentucky  Louisiana  Michigan  Mississippi
Missouri  Montana  New Hampshire  North Carolina  North Dakota¹
Ohio  Oklahoma  South Dakota  Tennessee  Texas
Utah  West Virginia  Wisconsin  Wyoming

Idaho¹ – PA only honors the ID Enhanced Permit.
North Dakota¹ – PA only honors the ND Class 1 Permit.

www.handgunlaw.us
Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

**Title 18 § 18-6109**  
**Reciprocity.**

(k)(1) The Attorney General shall have the power and duty to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states providing for the mutual recognition of a license to carry a firearm issued by the Commonwealth and a license or permit to carry a firearm issued by the other state. To carry out this duty, the Attorney General is authorized to negotiate reciprocity agreements and grant recognition of a license or permit to carry a firearm issued by another state.

(2) The Attorney General shall report to the General Assembly within 180 days of the effective date of this paragraph and annually thereafter concerning the agreements which have been consummated under this subsection.

2011 Amendment. Act 10 amended subsec. (m.3)

**Note:** To view the signed agreements that Pennsylvania has go [Here](#).

### How to Apply for a Permit

**Note:** (Video) Columbia Co. Dist. Attorney Leipold and Sheriff Chamberlain [Seminar](#) on PA Firearm Laws. 11/12/13.  PA State Rep. Keith Gillespie hosts Attorney Matthew Menges to provide an [Overview on Pennsylvania's Concealed Carry Laws](#). 6/14

Pennsylvania Superior Court has ruled that PA Residents must have a PA issued Permit to carry in Pennsylvania. See Decision [Here](#).

It is very simple to obtain a Pennsylvania Concealed Carry Permit/License. Just take your Pennsylvania Drivers License or State ID. Names, Addresses and Phone numbers of two references and your check book and go to the Sheriff’s Office in the county you reside. Tell them you wish to apply for a Permit/License to Carry a Concealed Weapon. Fill out the application and pay the fee. PA Code PA Code 18 Pa.C.S. § 6109 states the total for all costs is to be $20. The Sheriff has 45 days to issue the permit/license or deny it.

Your Permit/License is valid for 5 years.

**Emergency Permits**

**Title 18 § 6109 (m.1) **Temporary Emergency Licenses.

This section of the PA Code allows someone who is 21 years of age and has evidence of imminent danger to the person or the person's minor child. They can obtain a permit to carry that is valid for 45 days to protect themselves from this imminent threat. See the Sheriff of the County you reside in for more information and how to apply for that Temporary Emergency License.

**Note:** Some Sheriff’s require another form of ID along with Drivers License. Some have Residency Requirement periods up to 90 days. Some require References to be residents of the county you apply in. Some have put other stipulations on issuing Licenses to Carry. Check with your local Sheriff’s Office for more information. On Applications most Sheriffs have their own header giving the office and address. Check with your local Sheriff or check online to obtain the form supplied by your county Sheriff.

### Non-Resident Permits

**Note:** You have to have a permit from your home state if your home state issue permits. Unless you are from Vermont which doesn’t issue permits. If your state is too restrictive and won’t issue you a permit you www.handgunlaw.us
can’t obtain a Non-Resident Pennsylvania Permit/License. Some Sheriff’s will not issue to non residents and/or have other stipulations to issue to non-residents. Handgunlaw.us has put together a listing of all the Sheriff’s in PA and their Firearm Pages which could help you in finding a Sheriff that issues to non residents. You can view that document Here.

Completed and Signed Application must be accompanied by the following:

1. A photo copy of a license to carry a firearm (concealed carry permit) from your home state if that state has a concealed carry law. If from IL you should bring your FOID Card.
2. A photo copy of your Driver's License.
3. Names, Addresses and Phone #’s of 2 references.
4. $20.00 fee for five year license and out of state processing.

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

- Court Houses (Areas Off Limits Must Be Posted)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Schools?? (See 18-912 and Note On School Carry Below)

Title 18 § 912 Possession of Weapon on School Property.

(a) Definition.--Notwithstanding the definition of "weapon" in section 907 (relating to possessing instruments of crime), "weapon" for purposes of this section shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nun-chuck stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

(b) Offense Defined.--A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he possesses a weapon in the buildings of, on the grounds of, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary publicly-funded educational institution, any elementary or secondary private school licensed by the Department of Education or any elementary or secondary parochial school.


Note: The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled on Weapons on School Property. From Handgunlaw.us reading the “Other Lawful Purposes” clause can be used as a defense to a charge of carrying on school property if done legally in all other aspects of firearms possession. A very good explanation of the ruling can be found at a Blog Post by Attorney Josh Prince, of the Prince Law Offices, P.C. You can also read the Courts Decision Here.

Title 18 Section § 913 Possession of firearm or other dangerous weapon in court facility.

(a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if he:

(1) knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a court facility or knowingly causes a firearm or other dangerous weapon to be present in a court facility; or

(2) knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a court facility with the intent that the firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission of a crime or knowingly causes a firearm or other dangerous weapon to be present in a court facility with the intent that the firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission of a crime.

(b) Grading.--

(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3), an offense under subsection (a)(1) is a misdemeanor of the third degree.

(2) An offense under subsection (a)(2) is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
Notice of the provisions of subsections (a) and (e) shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to each courthouse or other building containing a court facility and each court facility, and no person shall be convicted of an offense under subsection (a)(1) with respect to a court facility if the notice was not so posted at each public entrance to the courthouse or other building containing a court facility and at the court facility unless the person had actual notice of the provisions of subsection (a).

Each county shall make available at or within the building containing a court facility by July 1, 2002, lockers or similar facilities at no charge or cost for the temporary checking of firearms by persons carrying firearms under section 6106(b) or 6109 or for the checking of other dangerous weapons that are not otherwise prohibited by law. Any individual checking a firearm, dangerous weapon or an item deemed to be a dangerous weapon at a court facility must be issued a receipt. Notice of the location of the facility shall be posted as required under subsection (d).

(f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Court facility." The courtroom of a court of record; a courtroom of a community court; the courtroom of a magisterial district judge; a courtroom of the Philadelphia Municipal Court; a courtroom of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court; a courtroom of the Traffic Court of Philadelphia; judge's chambers; witness rooms; jury deliberation rooms; attorney conference rooms; prisoner holding cells; offices of court clerks, the district attorney, the sheriff and probation and parole officers; and any adjoining corridors.

2014 Amendment. Act 16 amended subsec.(f)

Title 18 § 5122. Weapons or Implements for Escape.

(a) Offenses Defined.—

(1) Except as provided under 61 Pa.C.S. § 5902(e.1) (relating to contraband prohibited), a person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he unlawfully introduces within a detention facility, correctional institution or mental hospital, or unlawfully provides an inmate thereof with any weapon, tool, implement, or other thing which may be used for escape.

2018 Amendment. Act 123 amended subsec. (a)

Note: I can’t find a definition of a Mental Hospital in PA law. Be aware that many hospitals may have a mental ward. Would it just be the mental ward or the whole hospital? Use caution.

PA Admin Code Title 49 Chapter 61.

Use of Public Areas Outside the Capitol Complex—Statement of Policy

Title 49 § 61.1. Additional Jurisdiction Over Properties.

The public areas of One Penn Center, 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg, under the jurisdiction of the Department of State and subject to this chapter, include the interior offices of the Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation, State Athletic Commission and leased offices and facilities related thereto.

Title 49 § 61.3. Firearms and Weapons.

The possession of firearms or other prohibited offensive weapons as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 908(c) (relating to prohibited offense weapons), while on the leased premises of the Department with the exception of State or Federal officers, in connection with the performance of an official duty, is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to attorneys listed as counsel of record in connection with the offering of an exhibit in any administrative proceeding, if the counsel of record who intends to offer the item as an exhibit, has obtained written authorization from a hearing examiner to do so.
Title 18 § 6106. Firearms Not to be Carried Without A License.

(a) Offense defined.--

(2) A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) Exceptions.--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to:

(15) Any person who possesses a valid and lawfully issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the Commonwealth and the state under section 6109(k), provided:

(i) The state provides a reciprocal privilege for individuals licensed to carry firearms under section 6109.

(ii) The Attorney General has determined that the firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm laws of this Commonwealth.

2008 Amendment Act 131 added subsec.(b)(16)

You can read an article by the McShane Law of Harrisburg PA on Places Off Limits in Pennsylvania. It gives a great overview of the law. McShane Firm LLC

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the USA Page.

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

“NO”

“No Gunlaw.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 Pennsylvania 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.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

“NO”

Title 18 § 6122. Proof of License and Exception.

(a) General Rule.--When carrying a firearm concealed on or about one's person or in a vehicle, an individual licensed to carry a firearm shall, upon lawful demand of a law enforcement officer,
produce the license for inspection. Failure to produce such license either at the time of arrest or at the preliminary hearing shall create a rebuttable presumption of nonlicensure.

1997 Amendment. Act 5 amended subsec. (a)

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<tr>
<th>Carry In State Parks//WMA/Road Side Rest Areas &amp; St. /Nat. Forests</th>
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<td><strong>Carry Allowed in these Areas:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>State Parks:</strong> YES Title 18 § 6109 (m.3) &amp; (n) &amp; Title 17 Pt I. Sub B, § 11.215 (Concealed Only)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>State/National Forests:</strong> YES Title 18 § 6109 (m.3) &amp; (n) &amp; Title 34 Chpt 25 Subchpt. B § 2525</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>State WMA’s:</strong> YES Title 18 § 6109 (m.3) &amp; (n) &amp; Title 58 Chpt. 135 § 135.41</td>
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<td><strong>Road Side Rest Areas:</strong> YES</td>
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<th>RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License</th>
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<td>From the PA State Police FAQs.</td>
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**Are there exceptions to carrying a firearm without a Pennsylvania License to Carry?**

A License to Carry Firearms is issued to carry a firearm concealed on one’s person or in a vehicle within this Commonwealth. Any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person except in his place of abode or fixed place of business without a valid and lawfully issued license commits a felony of the third degree.

A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

**Title 18 § 6106 Firearms not to be Carried Without a License**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license under this chapter commits a felony of the third degree.

(2) A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(b) Exceptions.--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to:

(11) Any person while carrying a firearm in any vehicle, which person possesses a valid and lawfully issued license for that firearm which has been issued under the laws of the United States or any other state.

(15) Any person who possesses a valid and lawfully issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the Commonwealth and the state under section 6109(k), provided:
(i) The state provides a reciprocal privilege for individuals licensed to carry firearms under section 6109.

(ii) The Attorney General has determined that the firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm laws of this Commonwealth.

2008 Amendment. Act 131 added subsec. (b)(16)

Note: There is debate about having to unload when you exit the vehicle to go into a motel room or other place you have rented or a family member or friend’s personal property to spend the night.

Federal Law:

§ 926A. Interstate Transportation of Firearms
Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver’s compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Open Carry is legal except a valid permit/license is needed to carry a loaded handgun openly or concealed in a vehicle and for openly carrying in the city of Philadelphia. Places as listed in the “Places Off Limits” above apply to those who open carry. See the “RV/Car Carry Without a Permit” section for carrying in a vehicle.

The state preempts all firearm laws in the state and local authorities can’t have Laws/Ordinances against open carry except cities of the 1st class were given exemptions to some parts of preemption. Philadelphia has laws/ordinances concerning open carry and only those with a valid permit/license to carry can open carry in Philadelphia. Remember that if you enter any property and the owner/responsible person ask you to leave you must leave. Failure to leave can result in Trespass Charges. The Minimum age for Open Carry is 18.

You can read the “Open Carry Guidance Document for Local Law Enforcement” put out by the Chiefs of Police Association in Pennsylvania Here.

In some states Open Carry is forbidden in places where those with a valid permit/license can carry. This is not the last word on Open Carry in this state. Check at www.opencarry.org or go to Google and type in State Name Open Carry or Open Carry State Name for a search for open carry info in this state. Check with the State’s RKBA Organization/s. Also see “Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases” Section for any written opinions/Cases on Open Carry.

State Preemption

Title 18 § 6120. Limitation on the Regulation of Firearms and Ammunition.

(a) General rule.-- No county, municipality or township may in any manner regulate the lawful ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components when carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth.
(a.1) No Right of Action.--

(1) No political subdivision may bring or maintain an action at law or in equity against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer for damages, abatement, injunctive relief or any other relief or remedy resulting from or relating to either the lawful design or manufacture of firearms or ammunition or the lawful marketing or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a political subdivision from bringing or maintaining an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer or dealer for breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by the political subdivision.

(b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Political subdivision." The term shall include any home rule charter municipality, county, city, borough, incorporated town, township or school district.

2014, P.L.2921, No.192

Deadly Force Laws

Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes
Crimes and Offenses (Title 18)
Part I. Preliminary Provisions

Chapter 5. General Principles of Justification
§ 501. Definitions.
§ 502. Justification a defense.
§ 503. Justification generally.
§ 504. Execution of public duty.
§ 505. Use of force in self-protection.
§ 506. Use of force for the protection of other persons.
§ 507. Use of force for the protection of property.
§ 508. Use of force in law enforcement.
§ 509. Use of force by persons with special responsibility for care, discipline or safety of others.
§ 510. Justification in property crimes.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click “Here”

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES (There is no law stating it is illegal)

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 or Red Lobster unless posted with “No Gun Signs.” 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.

www.handgunlaw.us
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**

**Title 18, § 908.1 Use or Possession of Electric or Electronic Incapacitation Device.**

(b) Self defense.--A person may possess and use an electric or electronic incapacitation device in the exercise of reasonable force in defense of the person or the person's property pursuant to Chapter 5 (relating to general principles of justification) if the electric or electronic incapacitation device is labeled with or accompanied by clearly written instructions as to its use and the damages involved in its use.

2002, P.L.1096, No.132

**Note:** Labeled or Accompanied is not defined. If it has paperwork with it I would carry it if not labeled with the clearly written instructions as to its use.

**City of Pittsburgh (April 10, 2019)**

§ 1104.01 Definitions  
(Link to Ordinance as Passed)

D. Large Capacity Magazine. A Firearm magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has the capacity of, or can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of Ammunition. This definition shall not be construed to include the following:

1. A feeding device that has been permanently altered so that it cannot accommodate more than 10 rounds of Ammunition;

2. A .22 caliber tube Ammunition feeding device;

3. A tubular magazine that is contained in a lever-action Firearm; and

4. A magazine that is permanently inoperable.

§ 1104.03 Prohibited Use of Large Capacity Magazine

A. It shall be unlawful to use in any public place within the City of Pittsburgh any Large Capacity Magazine.

B. For purposes of this Section, “use” of a Large Capacity Magazine does not include possession, ownership, transportation or transfer. “Use” of a Large Capacity Magazine shall include:

1. Employing it to discharge or in attempt to discharge Ammunition by means of a Firearm;

2. Loading it with Ammunition;

3. Fitting or installing it into a Firearm;

4. Brandishing it with a Firearm;

5. Displaying it with a Firearm while loaded; and

6. Employing it for any purpose prohibited by the laws of Pennsylvania or of the United States.

C. For purposes of this Section, “public place” shall include streets, parks, open spaces, public buildings, public accommodations, businesses and other locations to which the general public has a right to resort, but does not include a private home or residence or any duly established site for the sale or transfer of Firearms or for Firearm training, practice or competition.

**Note:** May 2019 - The City and Parties in the law suits have agreed to a stay of the implementation of the ordinances and the Judge has issued an order staying it until the court cases are settled. More info will be posted when it becomes available.  

11/1/19 - Allegheny Court of Common Pleas stated that above ordinance was a violation of PA Preemption. Pittsburgh has stated they will appeal.
LEOSA State Information

Pennsylvania State Police LEOSA Information  (Added 11/18)

See the LEOSA Section on the USA Page at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

Pennsylvania Supreme Ct Ruling on Preemption
Pennsylvania Superior Ct Ruling that PA residents must have a PA Issued Permit to carry in PA.
Pennsylvania Commonwealth Ct Ruling on Preemption and Cities Banning Firearms in City Parks.
PA Supreme Court – Warrantless Vehicle Justified on Probable Cause and/or Exigent Circumstances
PA AG Opinion on Casinos and Authority to Ban Firearms in State Licenses Casinos.
PA Supreme Ct Ruling on Carry Weapons In Schools
PA Supreme Ct – Mere Act of Carrying Not Suspicion of Criminal Activity  (5/31/19)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Airport Carry: Carry in Parking Lot/Non Sterile Area of Terminal OK. No Law Stating it is Illegal.
Training Valid for: No set time period. No training required in PA.
Time Period to Establish Residency: Upon obtaining a Pennsylvania Drivers License/ID.
Minimum Age for Permit/License: 21
Permit/License Info Public Information: NO
State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute: 18 § 6109
State Fire arm Laws: 18 § 6101 thru 18 § 6142
State Deadly Force Laws: 18 § 501 thru 18 § 510
State Knife Laws: 18 § 907, 18 § 908, 18 § 912 & 18 § 913
Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: 18 § 907 & 18 § 908.1
Body Armor Laws: 18 § 907c & 18 § 908.1
Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? NO 18 § 6109.
Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? YES PA Hunting & Trapping Digest & PA Statutes Sec. 2525

Notes

What PA Considers A Loaded Firearm

Title 18 § 6102 Definitions.
"Loaded." A firearm is loaded if the firing chamber, the nondetachable magazine or, in the case of a revolver, any of the chambers of the cylinder contain ammunition capable of being fired. In the case of a www.handgunlaw.us
firearm which utilizes a detachable magazine, the term shall mean a magazine suitable for use in said firearm which magazine contains such ammunition and has been inserted in the firearm or is in the same container or, where the container has multiple compartments, the same compartment thereof as the firearm. If the magazine is inserted into a pouch, holder, holster or other protective device that provides for a complete and secure enclosure of the ammunition, then the pouch, holder, holster or other protective device shall be deemed to be a separate compartment.

State Emergency Powers

Title 18 § 6107. Prohibited Conduct During Emergency. (Still looking for Governor Authority)

(a) General rule. -- No person shall carry a firearm upon the public streets or upon any public property during an emergency proclaimed by a State or municipal governmental executive unless that person is:

(1) Actively engaged in a defense of that person's life or property from peril or threat.

(2) Licensed to carry firearms under section 6109 (relating to licenses) or is exempt from licensing under section 6106(b) (relating to firearms not to be carried without a license).

(b) Seizure, Taking and Confiscation. -- Except as otherwise provided under subsection (a) and notwithstanding the provisions of 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 73 (relating to Commonwealth services) or any other provision of law to the contrary, no firearm, accessory or ammunition may be seized, taken or confiscated during an emergency unless the seizure, taking or confiscation would be authorized absent the emergency.

(c) Definitions. -- As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Accessory." Any scope, sight, bipod, sling, light, magazine, clip or other related item that is attached to or necessary for the operation of a firearm.

"Firearm." The term includes any weapon that is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame or receiver of any weapon.

PA Administrative Code Title 4 Chapter 3 § 3.25. Specific Responsibilities.

(aa) Pennsylvania State Police. The Pennsylvania State Police shall have the following responsibilities:

(3) Emergency response activities. Emergency response activities shall include the following:

(i) Deploy emergency response team representatives to the Harrisburg and three Area Emergency Operations Centers of the Commonwealth, as requested by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, for the coordination of State Police emergency response activities.

(ii) Collect and report, to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, information on major or significant disaster effects and problems including, particularly, facts relating to human deaths and injuries, loss of electric power, highway traffic disruption, maintenance of law and order and unusual occurrences or dangers.

(iii) Collect and maintain, in disaster situations, official Statewide records of dead and missing persons, to include periodic reporting of summary statistics to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.
(iv) Supply, to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, as requested by means of the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network and other State Police facilities, assistance in the dissemination of essential disaster information and instructions.

(v) Supply, as requested, police assistance in State, county and local emergency operations.

(vi) Assist in the establishment and operation of emergency mortuary facilities and services including, particularly, aid in identification of the dead.

(vii) Implement, upon request, suspension of the sale of firearms, explosives and combustibles.

Note: Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See US Code 42-5207 for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies. The state quoted code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns,

Pennsylvania 18 Y/O Title 18 § 6110.1.

This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

Note: In some states Possession and Transportation CAN be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

This is not the last word on possession and transporting of handguns in this, or any other state. Study your state law further for more information. See “RV/Car Carry” Section Above for more information.

Permit/License Image

This is the new format for all Resident and Non Resident Licenses that PA will Issue. Some Sheriff’s add their name and contact info to the back of the licenses he issues. Most counties do not do this and the reverse is blank.

Images have been digitally assembled from 2 or more images. They may not be 100% accurate but gives a good representation of the actual Permit/License.

Updates to this Page

Archive of Previous Updates 3

4/17/18 – Reference in Places Off Limits Pertaining to Philly City Parks Removed. 4/17/18 – Permits This State Honors Updated With Addition of AL and ID Enhanced. Virginia Removed From Listing. AG Has Changed His Reciprocity Page.
6/23/18 – All Links Checked.
11/7/18 – LEOSA Link Added to LESOA Section.
11/11/18 – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.
12/1/18 – Age to Carry a Firearm in Other States Link Added to Bottom of Links Section
12/29/18 - Emergency Permit Information Added to How to Apply Section.
4/1/19 - Seminar Link Removed from State Rep on Gun Laws. No Longer Available on his site. All Links Checked.
4/11/19 - Pittsburgh Magazine Ban Ordinance Added to Chem Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Cap Mags Section.
5/1/19 – Link to Listing of PA Sheriffs Websites on Issuing Permits Added to Non-Resident Permit Section. Berks Co CCW Pamphlet Link Added to Links Section.
5/28/19 - Chem Sprays/Stun Guns/Higher Cap Mag Section Note Updated on Pittsburgh Firearm Bans.
6/1/19 - PA Supreme Ct Ruling Mere Act of Carrying Not Suspicion of Criminal Activity.
7/1/19 - Kentucky and South Dakota added to Note under map at top of page as Permitless Carry states.
11/1/19 – Note Expanded In Chem Sprays/Stun Guns/Higher Cap Mags Section on Pittsburgh Ordinance. Oklahoma added to Note under map at top of page as Permitless Carry state.
12/20/19 - All Quoted PA Statutes in Document Checked Against Current PA Statutes for Accuracy.
1/15/20 – All Links Checked.