

Concealed Handgun Permits

As of December 1, 1995, certain residents of North Carolina may be eligible to obtain a permit which would allow them to carry a concealed handgun under certain conditions. No other weapons can be carried concealed pursuant to this permit. Once issued, the permit is valid throughout the state of North Carolina for a period of 5 years, unless it is revoked.

In order to acquire a concealed handgun permit, an individual must apply to the Sheriff's Office in the county in which he resides. Application packets may be downloaded from the Sheriff's Office website or may be picked up in person at the Sheriff's Office.

As a part of the application process, the applicant must submit the following items:

- Concealed handgun permit application (signed and notarized)
- First Time Applications- **\$90.00** non-refundable permit/fingerprint fee (**Cash/Credit/Debit**)
- Renewal Applications- **\$75.00** non-refundable permit fee (**Cash/Credit/Debit**)
- Two full sets of fingerprints taken by the Sheriff's Office (first time applications only)
- Release form for physical and mental health records (signed and notarized)
- Valid photo ID showing current Union County address (driver's license or NC ID card)
- "The Do's and Don'ts of Carrying a Concealed Handgun" (signed and dated)

If you are applying for a concealed handgun permit for the **FIRST TIME**, you will also need to bring the following: (These items will not be required to renew your permit if already on file.)

- **Original** certificate of completion of approved firearms safety course
- Form DD-214 or similar proof of military discharge status for applicants having previously served in the military.

If making application to **RENEW** a concealed handgun permit, you should also bring:

- Affidavit for Renewal of Permit (signed and dated).

Fingerprinting is done by appointment. Please call the Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789 to schedule an appointment to have your fingerprints taken. At that time, you will submit your completed application packet and pay the required fee.

A criminal background check is conducted on all applicants. The Sheriff has up to 45 days from the date all application materials are received (including mental health records checks) to either issue or deny the permit. In order to be approved to receive a concealed handgun permit, an applicant must, among other things:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have been a resident of Union County and North Carolina for the past 30 days prior to filing the application
- Not suffer from any physical or mental infirmity which would prevent the safe handling and operation of a firearm
- Successfully complete an approved firearms training and safety course.

You will be notified by phone or letter when your permit is ready to be picked up. Permits must be picked up in person at the Sheriff's Office between the hours of 6am-8pm, Monday – Friday. You must bring a valid photo ID in order to pick up your permit.

Renewing of Concealed Handgun Permits

It is the applicant's responsibility to renew the permit before it expires. The permit will expire at 12:00am on the date listed on the card. Be sure to renew at least 90 days prior to the expiration date. If a permit expires, and an application for renewal has not been submitted, an individual may not carry his or her weapon concealed until a new application has been approved and a permit issued.

The renewal process will be similar to the original application except the Sheriff has waived the necessity for existing permit holders to re-take the firearms safety course. However, if a permit holder allows a permit to expire, he or she will be treated as a new applicant and will be required to take the firearms safety class again.

Rules For Carrying A Concealed Handgun

In North Carolina, concealed handguns may not be carried:

- In law enforcement or correctional facilities such as a prison
- In financial institutions such as a bank
- In any space occupied by state or federal employees, including state and federal courthouses
- In schools or on school grounds
- In areas of assemblies, parades, funerals, or demonstrations
- In any place where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed (such as some restaurants)
- In any area where concealed handguns are prohibited by federal law
- In any place of business that has posted a sign banning concealed weapons on its premises
- By any person while consuming alcohol or while under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance (unless obtained legally and taken as directed by a physician)

To possess a concealed handgun in North Carolina, you must:

- Carry your permit and a valid form of identification with you at all times
- Disclose the fact that you have a valid concealed handgun permit when you are approached or addressed by any law enforcement officer in North Carolina
- Inform the officer that you are in possession of a concealed handgun
- Present both the permit and valid identification at the request of an officer

NOTE: You should not attempt to display either your weapon or your permit unless directed to by an officer.

Reasons For Denial of a Concealed Handgun Permit

The Sheriff must deny a permit to any applicant whom:

- A. is ineligible to own, possess or receive a firearm under provisions of state or federal law
- B. is under indictment or against whom a finding of probable cause exists for a felony
- C. has been adjudicated (found) guilty in any court of a felony
- D. is a fugitive from justice
- E. is an unlawful user of, or addicted to marijuana, alcohol, or any depressant, stimulant, or a narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance
- F. is currently, or has been previously adjudicated or administratively determined to be lacking mental capacity or mentally ill. NOTE: No time limitation is placed on when the adjudication or mental incapacity had to have occurred
- G. is or has been discharged from the armed services under conditions other than honorable, such as: bad conduct, dishonorable discharge, or a dismissal. This would not apply to a general discharge under honorable conditions or an entry level separation.
- H. has had a prayer for judgment continued for a criminal offense which would disqualify the person from obtaining a concealed handgun permit
- I. is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a crime which would disqualify the person from obtaining a concealed handgun permit
- J. has been convicted of an impaired driving offense within three (3) years prior to the date on which the application was submitted

- K. is or has been adjudicated guilty of or received a prayer for judgment continued or a suspended sentence for one or more crimes of violence constituting a misdemeanor, including but not limited to:
1. assaults or any crimes of violence found in Article 8 of Chapter 14 of NC General Statutes
 2. harassment of and communication with jurors
 3. violating orders of court
 4. furnishing poison, controlled substances, deadly weapons, cartridges, ammunition, or alcoholic beverages to inmates of charitable, mental or penal institutions or local confinement facilities
 5. weapons on campus or other educational property
 6. carrying weapons into assemblies and establishments where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed
 7. weapons on state property and courthouses
 8. possession and sale of spring-loaded projectile knives
 9. impersonation of firemen, or emergency medical services personnel
 10. communicating threats
 11. weapons at parades and other public gatherings
 12. stalking
 13. throwing or dropping of objects at sporting events
 14. exploding dynamite cartridges and bombs
 15. riot or inciting to riot
 16. fighting or conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence
 17. making or using any utterance, gesture, display or abusive language which is intended and plainly likely to provoke retaliation and thereby create a breach of the peace
 18. looting and trespassing during an emergency
 19. assault on emergency personnel
 20. violations of city or county State of Emergency ordinances
 21. violations of State of Emergency ordinances
 22. child abuse
 23. violations of the standards for carrying a concealed weapon

Please see the attached document “The Do’s and Don’ts of Carrying a Concealed Handgun” for more information on places where concealed handguns may not be carried and other rules and regulations for carrying a concealed handgun.

Gun Safety Tips For Parents

1. If you keep a handgun in your home, always keep it unloaded and locked up!
2. Always lock and store bullets separately from your handgun. Young children can figure out how to load a gun.
3. Keep a gun lock on your gun after it is unloaded. Gun locks are excellent devices when used in combination with other safety habits. However, gun locks can provide a false sense of security. All it takes is forgetting to lock a gun just one time or leaving the key where a child can find it. Always be diligent when using a gun lock. Always double check to make sure that it is locked at all times.
4. Make sure children don’t have access to the keys to gun locks and gun and ammunition storage areas.
5. Even if you don’t own a gun, talk with your children about the danger of guns and what to do if they find one while playing or at a friend’s house.
6. Explain to your children that guns are dangerous and that they should never touch them.