

PRACTICAL ARMS

Personal Firearm Training

Concealed Handgun Permits

As of December 1, 1995, qualified residents of North Carolina became 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 take an approved handgun training and safety class and upon successful completion apply to the Sheriff's Office in the county in which he/she resides.

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

- **Original** certificate of completion of approved handgun training and safety course
- Concealed handgun permit application.
- First Time Applications- **\$90.00 cash, exact change**, non-refundable fee.
- Renewal Applications- **\$75.00 cash, exact change**, non-refundable fee.
- Full sets of fingerprints taken by the Sheriff's Office.
- Release form for physical and mental health records.
- Valid photo ID showing current address (driver's license or NC ID card).
- Form DD-214 or similar proof of military discharge status for applicants having previously served in the military.

Please call your local Sheriff's Office to schedule an appointment and double check the information you need to bring. At that time, you will complete and submit your application packet and pay the required fee.

A criminal background check is conducted on all applicants. The Sheriff has up to **90 days** from the date all application materials are received 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 the local NC County you reside 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. 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, an individual may not carry his or her firearm 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

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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 or credit union
- 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:

- Is ineligible to own, possess or receive a firearm under provisions of state or federal law
- Is under indictment or against whom a finding of probable cause exists for a felony
- Has been adjudicated (found) guilty in any court of a felony
- Is a fugitive from justice
- Is an unlawful user of, or addicted to marijuana, alcohol, or any depressant, stimulant, or a narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance
- 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
- 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.
- Has had a prayer for judgment continued for a criminal offense which would disqualify the person from obtaining a concealed handgun permit
- 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
- Has been convicted of an impaired driving offense within three (3) years prior to the date on which the application was submitted

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- 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.

Please consult your Practical Arms Firearm Instructor for additional information on firearm training.