

Concealed Handgun Permits

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 or she resides. Applications are completed online by visiting the Sheriff's Office website, www.ucso.us and following the link for "Concealed Handgun Permits." Payment is also made online at the time of application.

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

- Concealed handgun permit application packet (signed and notarized)
- First Time Applications- **\$90.00** non-refundable permit/fingerprint fee (paid online at time of application)
- Renewal Applications- **\$75.00** non-refundable permit fee (paid online at time of application)
- Two full sets of fingerprints taken by the Sheriff's Office (first time applications only)
- Valid photo ID showing current Union County address (driver's license or NC ID card)

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 they are 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 submit:

- Affidavit for Renewal of Permit (included in online application packet)

Fingerprinting is done by appointment only. Appointments are scheduled online when the application is completed and all paperwork will be turned in at the Sheriff's Office on the date of the appointment.

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 email when your permit is ready to be picked up. Permits must be picked up in person at the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience. 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. Renewal applications may be submitted beginning 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 need 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 jail or prison
- In any space occupied by state or federal employees, including state and federal courthouses
- On state occupied property
- In any local government building if an ordinance has been adopted and there are signs prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons
- In schools or on school grounds, however a permittee may secure a handgun in a locked vehicle
- In areas of assemblies or demonstrations
- 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 whenever the handgun is being carried concealed
- 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 draw or display either your weapon or your permit unless directed to do so by an officer. Keep your hands in plain view and do not make any sudden movements.

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. has any pending felony or misdemeanor charge
- L. has been adjudicated guilty of or received a prayer for judgment continued or a suspended sentence for offenses constituting a misdemeanor under the following specific statutes, or any other crime of violence, 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. carrying 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. impersonation of a law enforcement officer or other public officer
 - 11. communicating threats
 - 12. weapons at parades and other public gatherings
 - 13. stalking
 - 14. throwing or dropping of objects at sporting events
 - 15. exploding dynamite cartridges and bombs
 - 16. riot or inciting to riot
 - 17. fighting or conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence
 - 18. 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
 - 19. looting and trespassing during an emergency
 - 20. assault on emergency personnel
 - 21. violations of city or county State of Emergency ordinances
 - 22. violations of State of Emergency ordinances
 - 23. child abuse
 - 24. violations of the standards for carrying a concealed weapon
 - 25. misrepresentation on certification of qualified retired law enforcement officers

Please see the document “The Do’s and Don’ts of Carrying a Concealed Handgun” which is part of the application packet 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.