

Eddie Cathey

Sheriff of Union County

3344 Presson Road
Monroe, North Carolina 28112



Telephone: (704) 283-3789
FAX: (704) 292-2700

Email: eddiecathey@unioncountync.gov

GUN OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

Learning the laws regulating the use of firearms is a must for responsible ownership. Local regulations differ and laws in other states vary, so citizens must check with the jurisdiction where the gun is to be carried or used. Generally, the law allows or provides the following points:

1. Permits to buy handguns in North Carolina can be obtained from the Office of the Sheriff. An individual must be 18 years old to purchase a shotgun or rifle and 21 years old to purchase a handgun. Only persons 21 or older may apply for a permit to purchase a handgun. A permit is not required to purchase a rifle or shotgun.
2. A handgun may not be carried concealed on or about your person without a valid concealed handgun permit. Such permits are obtained through an application process with the Sheriff's Office.
3. Guns may be carried in the trunk of a car or locked in a suitcase or other container or carried in plain view, but not if the display of the weapon would invoke fear in public.
4. Guns may not be carried into the courthouse, public or private educational property, premises where alcohol is sold and consumed, assemblies, state government buildings, or public gatherings. Likewise, guns are prohibited in an area during a declared state of emergency or in the vicinity of a riot.
5. There is no such thing as a permit to carry a handgun if you plan on carrying the weapon in plain view. If you wish to carry the weapon concealed, you must complete the application process mentioned above.
6. You are not required to "register" your handgun with local law enforcement once you purchase the handgun. The only requirement is that you obtain a permit from the Sheriff before you purchase the handgun.
7. North Carolina law does not make an exception for the receiving or purchase of a handgun from a private individual as opposed to a firearms dealer. Therefore, a permit is necessary before the transfer of any handgun, whether you receive or purchase it from an individual or a dealer

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8. Competency with firearms is like learning to drive a car or flying a plane. One needs expert instruction and practice. There is no shortcut. If one is not willing to invest the time and money to become competent, having a firearm and trying to use it can be more hazardous than whatever danger one is trying to defend against.
9. Storage of firearms and ammunition presents a unique responsibility. Children see guns as toys and thieves view them as something to sell for a quick profit or as a tool for future crime. Lock all firearms away from children and thieves.
10. Record the brand name, model and serial number of your pistol and keep it in a safe place. Should the pistol be lost or stolen, report this information immediately to the nearest local law enforcement agency.
11. Used properly, a pistol will provide you with years of trouble free service and harmless recreation. When used improperly or in a careless manner, tragedy can result.
12. Professional training is essential to the safe and legal use of any weapon, particularly a handgun. Please consult your telephone directory (yellow pages) for the location convenient to you. We urge that you receive the proper training as soon as possible.

REMEMBER: FIREARMS ARE DEADLY WEAPONS. BE CAREFUL!!!!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Union County Sheriff's Office.

SHERIFF EDDIE CATHEY