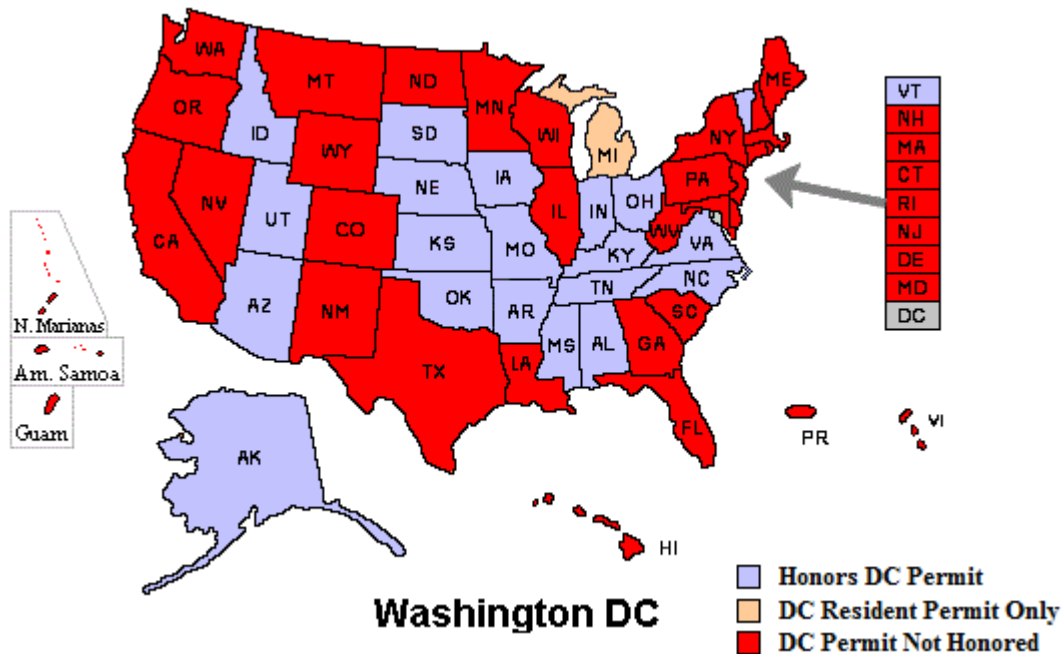


# Washington DC

**May Issue**      **Must Inform Officer: YES**  
(See Must Inform Officer Section Below)



**Links**

[DC CCW Site](#)  
[How to Apply Application](#)  
[Firearm Laws Title 22 Subtitle VII Chapter 25](#)  
[CCW Emergency Rules](#)  
[Emergency Rules](#)  
[DC Certified Instructors](#)  
[DC Code](#)  
[DC Municipal Rules](#)  
[Firearms Registration Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt 25](#)  
[Firearms Registration](#)  
[DC Attorney General](#)  
**Last Updated: 3/30/17**

**Note:** [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Kansas](#), [Maine](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Vermont](#) and [West Virginia](#) have “Permitless Carry.” Anyone who can legally possess a firearm may carry it concealed in those states without a Permit/License. Check each states page for more information and any restrictions that may apply.

## Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

DC does not honor any other states permit/license.

**Note:** DC has moved its Laws to LexisNexis and there are no direct links to any of their laws.

## How to Apply for a Permit – Registration of All Firearms

**NOTICE:** (6/1/16 - A Stay has been issued in this case and DC Just Cause is still in effect until all the appeals have been exhausted.) - 5/24/16 - The US. District Court for the District of Columbia had issued a Preliminary Injunction against the “Just Cause” in the DC Law on the Issuing of Permits. You can read the Case and Order in links added to the AG Opinions/Ct Case Section of this Document. DC will most likely ask for a stay and appeal this case.

The [DC Metro Police](#) have posted Instructions on [How to Apply](#) and an [Application](#) that can be printed. The How to Apply document is very wordy but you need to read all of it before applying. Training can be delayed and you can be preapproved without the training if you obtain it within 45 days of preapproval. Cost for the License is \$75.00. A list of trainers can be found using the Link in the Links Section Above.

**Application Requirements.** (More information from the Metropolitan Police on applying [Here](#))

**Title 24 Chpt 23 2332.1** A person is eligible for issuance of a license to carry a concealed pistol (concealed carry license) only if the person:

- (a) Is at least 21 years of age;
- (b) Meets all of the requirements for a person registering a firearm pursuant to the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (the Act), effective September 24, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-85; D.C. Official Code § 7-2501.01 *et seq.* (2012 Repl. & 2014 Supp.));
- (c) Possesses a pistol registered pursuant to the Act;
- (d) Does not currently suffer nor has suffered in the previous five (5) years from any mental illness or condition that creates a substantial risk that he or she is a danger to himself or herself or others; provided that if the person no longer suffers such mental illness or condition, and that person has provided satisfactory documentation required under § 2337.3, then the Chief may determine that this requirement has been met;
- (e) Has completed a firearms training course, or combination of courses, conducted by an instructor (or instructors) certified by the Chief;
- (f) Has a bona fide residence or place of business:
  - (1) Within the District of Columbia;
  - (2) Within the United States and a license to carry a pistol concealed upon his or her person issued by the lawful authorities of any State or subdivision of the United States; or
  - (3) Within the United States and meets all registration and licensing requirements pursuant to the Act;
- (g) Has demonstrated to the Chief good reason to fear injury to his or her person or property or has any other proper reason for carrying a pistol; and

(h) Is a suitable person to be so licensed.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

### **Title 24 Chpt 23 2333 Good reason to fear injury to person or property**

**2333.1** A person shall demonstrate a good reason to fear injury to his or her person by showing a special need for self-protection distinguishable from the general community as supported by evidence of specific threats or previous attacks which demonstrate a special danger to the applicant's life.

**2333.2** For the purposes of satisfying the specifications of § 2333.1, a person shall allege, in writing, serious threats of death or serious bodily harm, any attacks on his or her person, or any theft of property from his or her person. The person shall also allege that the threats are of a nature that the legal possession of a pistol is necessary as a reasonable precaution against the apprehended danger.

**2333.3** The person shall provide all evidence of contemporaneous reports to the police of such threats or attacks, and disclose whether or not the applicant has made a sworn complaint to the police or the courts of the District of Columbia concerning any threat or attack.

**2333.5** The fact that a person resides in or is employed in a high crime area shall not by itself establish a good reason to fear injury to person or property for the issuance of a concealed carry license.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

## **Registration of Firearms**

[Firearm's Registration General Requirements](#)

[Firearm's Registration Form](#)

All firearms must be registered in DC. Before you can even buy a firearm you must complete all the paperwork. It is a very long and complicated process. DC Government has stated they have streamlined the [www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us)

process but it is still complicated. The DC Metro Police have a webpage devoted to Registering a firearm and all that you have to do before you can take possession of the firearm. DC also limits what firearms can be registered. Most of the information you need to get started with registering a firearm in DC can be found [Here](#).

## Non-Resident Permits

### Title 24 Chpt 23 2345 Non-Resident Applications for Concealed Carry License

- 2345.1** A non-resident of the District, as defined by the Act, may apply to the Firearms Registration Section for a concealed carry license upon a showing that the applicant meets all of the eligibility requirements of § 2332.
- 2345.2** A non-resident may satisfy some or all of the firearms training requirements in § 2336 by providing proof of completion of a firearms training course in another state or subdivision of the United States.
- 2345.3** A non-resident shall obtain a certification from a firearms trainer that the applicant has received and completed training in District firearms law and the District law of self-defense.
- 2345.4** A non-resident must demonstrate to the Chief that he or she has a good reason to fear injury to his or her person or property, as defined by the Act and these regulations, by showing that the fear is from a cause that will likely be present in the District and is not a cause that is likely to be present only in another jurisdiction.
- 2345.5** A non-resident must demonstrate to the Chief that he or she has any other proper reason for carrying a pistol, as defined by the Act and these regulations, by showing that the other proper reason exists in the District. SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

## Places Off-Limits Even With A Permit/License

### Title 24 Chpt 23 2343 Ammunition Carried by Licensee

- 2343.1** A person issued a concealed carry license by the Chief, while carrying the pistol, shall not carry more ammunition than is required to fully load the pistol twice, and in no event shall that amount be greater than twenty (20) rounds of ammunition.
- 2343.2** A person issued a concealed carry license by the Chief may not carry any restricted pistol bullet as that term is defined in the Act. Source: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us understands this to mean if you carry a 6 shot revolver you can carry just one reload for it or a total of 12 rounds. If you would have a 10 round mag and carry one in the chamber and a full mag your spare mag could only carry 9 as that would give you a total of 20 rds which is DC's Max to carry.

### Title IX – Licenses to Carry a Pistol.

#### Sec. 901. Definitions. For the purposes of this title, the term:

(2) Concealed pistol” means a loaded or unloaded pistol carried on or about a person entirely hidden from view of the public, or carried on or about a person in a vehicle in such a way as it is entirely hidden from view of the public.

### Title IX – Licenses to Carry a Pistol.

#### Sec. 906. Carrying a pistol while impaired.

- (a) A licensee shall not carry a pistol while he or she is consuming alcohol.
- (b) A licensee shall not carry a pistol while impaired.
- (c) Upon establishing reasonable suspicion that a licensee has been consuming drugs or alcohol, a licensee's failure to submit to one or more field sobriety, breathalyzer, or urine tests, administered to determine whether the licensee is impaired while carrying a pistol, shall be grounds for summary suspension of the license pursuant to section 905(b).

**Title IX – Licenses to Carry a Pistol.**  
**Sec. 907. Prohibitions on carrying licensed pistols.**

(a) No person holding a license shall carry a pistol in the following locations or under the following circumstances:

- (1) A building or office occupied by the District of Columbia, its agencies, or instrumentalities;
- (2) The building and grounds, including any adjacent parking lot, of an childcare facility, preschool, public or private elementary or secondary school; or a public or private college or university;
- (3) A hospital, or an office where medical or mental health services are the primary services provided;
- (4) A penal institution, secure juvenile residential facility, or halfway house;
- (5) A polling place while voting is occurring;
- (6) A public transportation vehicle, including the Metrorail transit system and its stations;
- (7) Any premises, or portion thereof, where alcohol is served, or sold and consumed on the premises, pursuant to a license issued under Title 25 of the District of Columbia Official Code; provided, that this prohibition shall not apply to premises operating under a temporary license issued pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-115, a C/R, D/R, C/H, D/H or caterer license issued pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-113, or premises with small-sample tasting permits issued pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 25-118, unless otherwise prohibited pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of this section;
- (8) A stadium or arena;
- (9) A gathering or special event open to the public; provided, that no licensee shall be criminally prosecuted unless:
  - (A) The organizer or the District has provided notice prohibiting the carrying of pistols in advance of the gathering or special event and by posted signage at the gathering or special event; or
  - (B) The licensee has been ordered by a law enforcement officer to leave the area of the gathering or special event and the licensee has not complied with the order;
- (10) The public memorials on the National Mall and along the Tidal Basin, and any area where firearms are prohibited under federal law or by a federal agency or entity, including U.S. Capitol buildings and grounds;
- (11) The White House Complex and its grounds up to and including to the curb of the adjacent sidewalks touching the roadways of the area bounded by Constitution Avenue, N.W., 15th Street, N.W., H Street, N.W., and 17th Street, N.W.;
- (12) The U.S. Naval Observatory and its fence line, including the area from the perimeter of its fence up to and including to the curb of the adjacent sidewalks touching the roadway of Observatory Circle, from Calvert Street, N.W., to Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., and around Observatory Circle to the far corner of Observatory Lane;
- (13)(A) When a dignitary or high-ranking official of the United States or a state, local, or foreign

government is moving under the protection of the MPD, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Capitol Police, or other law enforcement agency assisting or working in concert with MPD, within an area designated by the Chief, the Chief of the U.S. Secret Service, or the Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, or a designee of any of the foregoing, that does not include any point at a distance greater than 1,000 feet from the moving dignitary or high-ranking official; provided, that no licensee shall be criminally prosecuted unless:

- (i) The law enforcement agency provides notice of the designated area by the presence of signs, law enforcement vehicles or officers acting as a perimeter, or other means to make the designated area of protection obvious;
- (ii) The District or federal government has provided notice prohibiting the carrying of pistols along a designated route or in a designated area in advance of the event, if possible, and by posted signage along a route or in a designated area; or
- (iii) The licensee has been ordered by a law enforcement officer to leave the designated area and the licensee has not complied with the order.

(B) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term moving shall include any planned or unplanned stops, including temporary stops, in locations open to the public.

(14) When demonstration in a public place is occurring, within an area designated by the Chief or his or her designee, or other law enforcement agency, that does not include any point at a distance greater than 1,000 feet from the demonstration; provided, that no licensee shall be criminally prosecuted unless:

- (A) The law enforcement agency provides notice of the designated area by the presence of signs, law enforcement vehicles or officers acting as a perimeter, or other means to make the designated area of the demonstration obvious;
- (B) The District or federal government has provided notice prohibiting the carrying of pistols along or within a demonstration route or designated area in advance of the event, if possible, and by posted signage along a demonstration route or designated area; or
- (C) The licensee has been ordered by a law enforcement officer to leave the designated area and the licensee has not complied with the order; or

(15) Any prohibited location or circumstance that the Chief determines by rule; provided, that for spontaneous circumstances, no criminal penalty shall apply unless the licensee has notice of the prohibition and has failed to comply.

(b)(1) The carrying of a concealed pistol on private residential property shall be presumed to be prohibited unless otherwise authorized by the property owner or person in residential property.

- (2) The carrying of a concealed pistol in a church, synagogue, mosque, or other place where people regularly assemble for religious worship shall be presumed to be prohibited unless the property is posted with conspicuous signage allowing the carrying of a concealed pistol, or the owner or authorized agent communicates such allowance personally to the licensee in advance of entry onto the property; provided, that such places may not authorize the carrying of a concealed pistol where services are conducted in locations listed in subsection (a) of this section.
- (3) The carrying of a concealed pistol on private property that is not a residence shall be presumed to be permitted unless the property is posted with conspicuous signage prohibiting the carrying of a concealed pistol, or the owner or authorized agent communicates such prohibition personally to the licensee.

**(c)** Whenever a licensee carries a concealed pistol and approaches any prohibited location, or is subject to any prohibited circumstance, under subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the licensee shall:

**(1)** If the licensee is in a vehicle or if a vehicle is readily available, immediately secure the pistol in the manner prescribed in section 4b(b) of An Act To control the possession, sale, transfer, and use of pistols and other dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia, to provide penalties, to prescribe rules of evidence, and for other purposes, effective May 20, 2009 (D.C. Law 17-388; D.C. Official Code § 22-4504.02(b)); or

**(2)** If the licensee does not have a vehicle available, immediately leave the prohibited location or circumstance.

**(d)** A licensee shall not be in violation of this section:

**(1)** While he or she is traveling along a public sidewalk that touches the perimeter of any of the premises where the carrying of a concealed pistol is prohibited under subsection (a) and subsection (b) of this section, except for the areas designated in subsection (a)(11) and (a)(12), or along a public street, roadway, or highway except for the areas designated in subsection (a)(11) and (a)(12), or along a public street, roadway, or highway” in its place. if the concealed pistol is carried on his or her person in accordance with this act, or is being transported by the licensee in accordance with section 4b of An Act To control the possession, sale, transfer, and use of pistols and other dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia, to provide penalties, to prescribe rules of evidence, and for other purposes, effective May 20, 2009 ( D.C. Law 17-388; D.C. Official Code § 22-4504.02); or

**(2)** While driving a vehicle into and immediately parking at any location listed in subsection (a)(2) of this section for the purpose of picking up or dropping off a student or a child; provided, that the licensee shall secure the concealed pistol in accordance with section 4b(b) of An Act To control the possession, sale, transfer, and use of pistols and other dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia, to provide penalties, to prescribe rules of evidence, and for other purposes, effective May 20, 2009 (D.C. Law 17-388; D.C. Official Code § 22-4504.02(b)), before leaving the parked vehicle.

**(e)** A licensee shall not carry a pistol openly or otherwise in a manner that is not concealed.

**(f)** In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who violates this section shall be subject to revocation of his or her license.

**(g)** For the purposes of this section, the term:

**(1)** Demonstration means one or more persons demonstrating, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding a vigil, or engaging in any other similar conduct that involves the communication or expression of views or grievances and that has the effect, intent, or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers. The term demonstration does not include the casual use of property by visitors or tourists that does not have the effect, intent, or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.

**(2)** Public place means a place to which the general public has access and a right to occupy for business, entertainment, or other lawful purpose. The term public place is not limited to a place devoted solely to the uses of the public, and includes:

**(A)** The front or immediate area or parking lot of a store, restaurant, tavern, shopping center, or other place of business;

**(B)** A public building, including its grounds and curtilage;

**(C)** A public parking lot;

**(D)** A public street, sidewalk, or right-of-way;

**(E)** A public park; and

**(F)** Other public grounds.

- (3) Public transportation vehicle means any publicly owned or operated commercial vehicle, including any DC Circulator bus, DC Streetcar, MetroAccess vehicle, Metrobus, or Metrorail train.
- (4) Residence means a building wholly or partly used or intended to be used for living and sleeping by human occupants, together with any fences, walls, sheds, garages, or other accessory buildings appurtenant to the building, and the area of land surrounding the building and actually or by legal construction forming one enclosure in which such a building is located, but does not include adjacent common areas or commercial property contained in any part of the building.

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**§ 22-4504.01. Authority to Carry Firearm in Certain Places and for Certain Purposes.**

Notwithstanding any other law, a person holding a **valid registration** for a firearm may carry the firearm:

- (1) Within the registrant's home;
- (2) While it is being used for lawful recreational purposes;
- (3) While it is kept at the registrant's place of business; or
- (4) While it is being transported for a lawful purpose as expressly authorized by District or federal statute and in accordance with the requirements of that statute. History May 20, 2009, D.C. Law 17-388, § 2(d), 56 DCR 1162.)

**§ 22-4503.02. Prohibition of Firearms from Public or Private Property.**

(a) The District of Columbia may prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on its property and any property under its control.

(b) Private persons or entities owning property in the District of Columbia may prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on their property; provided, that this subsection shall not apply to law enforcement personnel when lawfully authorized to enter onto private property. May 20, 2009, D.C. Law 17-388, § 2(b), 56 DCR 1162.)

**§ 7-2501.01. Definitions**

(2) "Ammunition" means cartridge **cases**, shells, projectiles (including shot), primers, bullets (including restricted pistol bullets), propellant powder, or other devices or materials designed, redesigned, or intended for use in a firearm or destructive device.

**§ 7-2506.01. Persons Permitted to Possess Ammunition**

(a) No person shall possess ammunition in the District of Columbia unless:

- (1) He is a licensed dealer pursuant to subchapter IV of this unit;
- (2) He is an officer, agent, or employee of the District of Columbia or the United States of America, on duty and acting within the scope of his duties when possessing such ammunition;
- (3) He is the holder of a valid registration certificate for a firearm pursuant to subchapter II of this chapter; except, that no such person shall possess restricted pistol bullets;
- (4) He holds an ammunition collector's certificate on September 24, 1976; or
- (5) He temporarily possesses ammunition while participating in a firearms training and safety class conducted by a firearms instructor. Apr. 27, 2013, D.C. Law 19-295, § 2(c), 60 DCR 2623.)

**§ 22-40 4501 (a) Section 1**

(1A) "Concealed pistol" means a loaded or unloaded pistol carried on or about a person entirely hidden from view of the public, or carried on or about a person in a vehicle in such a way as it is entirely hidden from view of the public."

**Title 24 Chpt 23 2344.2** A person issued a concealed carry license by the Chief shall carry any pistol in a holster on their person in a firmly secure manner that is reasonably designed to prevent loss, theft, or accidental discharge of the pistol.

**Note:** If you have an empty/fired cartridge case, bullets not loaded in a case, primers, powder etc in your vehicle that is not stored so it can't be accessed by the driver or any passenger you are in violation of DC Code and can be fined and jailed. This would only apply to those without a valid permit/license to carry a concealed firearm in the District of Columbia.

**Note:** If you stop in DC for any reason while transporting firearms you are no longer covered by Federal Law (Title 18 Part 1 Chapter 44 § 926A) but fall under DC law and can be arrested and your firearms Confiscated if you do not have a valid Permit/License Issued by DC.

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the [USA Page](#).

## Do "No Gun Signs" Have the Force of Law?

**"YES"**

### **Title 24 Chpt 23 2346 Signage to Prevent Entrance by Concealed Carry Licensee Onto Non Residential Private Property**

**2346.1** Signs stating that the carrying of firearms is prohibited on any private property shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at any entrance, open to the public, of a building, premises, or real property.

**2346.2** A sign shall be considered conspicuous if it is at least eight (8) inches by ten (10) inches in size and contains writing in contrasting ink using not less than thirty-six (36) point type.  
SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us believes when you come across a business that is posted that you not just walk away. That business needs to know that they lost your business because of their "No Gun" sign. Giving them a "No Firearms = No Money" card would do just that. You can print free "No Firearms = No Money" cards by going [Here](#).

## Parking Lot Storage Law

**Title 24 Chpt 23 2332.1 (d)(2)** While driving a vehicle into and immediately parking at any location listed in subsection (a)(2) or (3), for the purpose of picking up or dropping off a minor child, provided that the licensee shall secure the concealed weapon in accordance with section 4b(b) of this act prior to leaving the parked vehicle.

(a)(2) The building and grounds, including any adjacent parking lot, of any public, public charter, or private elementary or secondary school; or any public or private college or university;

(a)(3) Any pre-school or child care facility;

**Note:** It looks like you can keep your firearm on you when dropping off or picking up your dropping off minor children. It states you have to store your firearm as described in 4b(b) if you have to exit it to get your children. Handgunlaw.us does not believe you can visit a school and just lock up your firearm in your vehicle on school property. The law states picking up or dropping off.



## **Title 24 Chpt 23 2332.1 (4)(b)**

(1) If the transportation of the firearm is by a vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the transporting vehicle.

(2) If the transporting vehicle does not have 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, and the firearm shall be unloaded.

**Note: Parking lots except for schools/colleges as above are not listed as being off limits. The new law also describes “Public Places” in the wording below. You would be able to visit places as listed as being off limits and park in a public or their parking lot if not posted and leave your unloaded and secured firearm in your vehicle**

## **§ 22-40 4501 (a) Section 1**

(1A) “Concealed pistol” means a loaded or unloaded pistol carried on or about a person entirely hidden from view of the public, or carried on or about a person in a vehicle in such a way as it is entirely hidden from view of the public.”

(7A) “Public place” means a place to which the general public has access and a right to occupy for business, entertainment, or other lawful purpose. “Public place” is not limited to a place devoted solely to the uses of the public, and includes:

- (1) The front or immediate area or parking lot of a store, restaurant, tavern, shopping center, or other place of business;
- (2) A public building, including its grounds and curtilage;
- (3) A public parking lot;
- (4) A public street, sidewalk, or right-of-way;
- (5) A public park; and
- (6) Other public grounds.”

## **Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?**

**“YES”**

### **Title IX – Licenses to Carry a Pistol.**

#### **Sec. 904**

(c) A licensee shall have on or about his or her person each time the pistol is carried in the District:

- (1) The license; and
- (2) The registration certificate for the pistol being carried, issued pursuant to this act.

(d) If a law enforcement officer initiates an investigative stop of a licensee carrying a concealed pistol pursuant to section 6 of the Pistols and Other Dangerous Weapons Act, the licensee, and any other licensee carrying a concealed pistol pursuant to section 6 of the Pistols and Other Dangerous Weapons Act who is with the stopped licensee at the time of the investigative stop, shall:

- (1) Disclose to the officer that he or she is carrying a concealed pistol;
- (2) Present the license and registration certificate;

- (3) Identify the location of the concealed pistol; and
  - (4) Comply with all lawful orders and directions from the officer, including allowing a pat down of his or her person and permitting the law enforcement officer to take possession of the pistol for so long as is necessary for the safety of the officer or the public.
- (e) The duties set forth in this section are in addition to any other requirements imposed by this act or applicable law.
- (f) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person who violates this section shall be subject to revocation of his or her license.

## Carry In State Parks//WMA/Road Side Rest Areas & St. /Nat. Forests

### Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: ?

State/National Forests: ?

WMA's: ?

Road Side Rest Areas: ?

## RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

You can not carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle in the District of Columbia. (See Note at Bottom of Sec)

### DC ST § 22-4504.02

#### District of Columbia Official Code 2001 Edition

#### Division IV. Criminal Law and Procedure and Prisoners.

#### Title 22. Criminal Offenses and Penalties. (Refs & Annos)

#### Subtitle VI. Regulation and Possession of Weapons.

#### Chapter 45. Weapons and Possession of Weapons. (Refs & Annos)

### § 22-4504.02. Lawful transportation of firearms.

(a) Any person who is not otherwise prohibited by the law from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be permitted to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm if the firearm is transported in accordance with this section.

(b)(1) If the transportation of the firearm is by a vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the transporting vehicle.

(2) If the transporting vehicle does not have 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, and the firearm shall be unloaded.

(c) If the transportation of the firearm is in a manner other than in a vehicle, the firearm shall be:

- (1) Unloaded;
- (2) Inside a locked container; and
- (3) Separate from any ammunition.

May 20, 2009, D.C. Law 17-388, § 2(d), 56 DCR 1162.)

**Note:** This is for transporting firearms through DC but if you are traveling and going through DC it is actually out of your way in most instances. I would not travel inside the Beltway around DC. The beltway is outside DC and is actually in the surrounding states but is a good boundary marker to keep from going into the District. If you stop in DC for any reason while transporting firearms you are no longer covered by Federal Law (Title 18 Part 1 Chapter 44 § 926A) but fall under DC law and can be arrested and your firearms Confiscated.

## Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

### Open Carry is Illegal in DC.

(e) A person holding a license issued pursuant to section 6 of this act shall not carry a pistol openly or otherwise in a manner that is not concealed.

## State Preemption

No Preemption Law. DC is a city unto itself and therefore city laws (Plus Federal Regulations) cover the entire district.

## Deadly Force Laws

### [Instructions to Trainers Concerning Law of Self Defense.](#)

The above is information given to DC Firearms Instructions on Self-Defense Laws in DC.

## Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click [“Here”](#)

## Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

### “YES”

DC law state you can't carry in a place that serves alcohol but gives exemptions to places that hold a Class C/R or D/R license. These are restaurant licenses for food and Beverages with Spirits, Beer and Wine allowed for sale on the premises for consumption. So carry in places like Red Lobster, Chili's and Fridays is legal in the District of Columbia as the law exempts these locations. DC forbids a licensed carrier from consuming or being under the influence when carrying.

**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. 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

**Self-defense spray** - means a mixture of a lacrimator including chloroacetophenone, alpha-chloroacetophenone, phenylchloromethylketone, ortho-chlorobenzalm-alononitrile or oleoresin capsicum.

### 7-2502.215. Possession of stun guns.

- (a) No person under 18 years of age shall possess a stun gun in the District; provided, that brief \ possession for self-defense in response to an immediate threat of harm shall not be a violation of this subsection.
- (b) No person who possesses a stun gun shall use that weapon except in the exercise of reasonable force in defense of person or property.
- (c) Unless permission specific to the individual and occasion is given, no person, except a law enforcement officer as defined in section 901, shall possess a stun gun in the following locations:
- (1) A building or office occupied by the District of Columbia government, its agencies, or instrumentalities;
  - (2) A penal institution, secure juvenile residential facility, or halfway house;
  - (3) A building or portion thereof, occupied by a children's facility, preschool, or public or private elementary or secondary school; or
  - (4) Any building or grounds clearly posted by the owner or occupant to prohibit the carrying of a stun gun.

### D.C. Official Code § 7-2506.01 Higher Capacity Magazines

“(b) No person in the District shall possess, sell, or transfer any large capacity ammunition feeding device regardless of whether the device is attached to a firearm. For the purposes of this subsection, the term “large capacity ammunition feeding device” means a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition. The term “large capacity ammunition feeding device” shall not include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.”

## LEOSA State Information

No State LEOSA Information available. See the LEOSA Section on the [USA Page](#) at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

## Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- [DC Court of Appeals – Ammo Bans](#)
- [US Dist. Ct for DC – Injunction Against Just Cause for Issue of Permits.](#) (5/17/16)
- [US Dist. Ct for DC - Order by the Court for Above Injunction.](#) (5/17/16)

## Airport Carry/Misc. Information

**Airport Carry:** **No Airports in DC** See VA Page for info on Reagan and Dulles information.

**Training Valid for:** No time period set in Temporary Amendment.

**Time Period to Establish Residency:** Unknown but most likely when you obtain a DC Drivers License.

**Minimum Age for Permit/License:** 21

**Permit/License Info Public Information:** NO

**State Fire arm Laws:** 22-2511 thru 22-4508 & 7-2502.01 thru 7-2502.14  
Administrative Rules 24-2300 - 24-2399

**State Deadly Force Laws:** No laws found.

**State Knife Laws:** 22-4514

**Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws:** 7-2502.12 thru 7-2502.14

**Body Armor Laws:** Unknown

**Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms?** NO

## Notes

**DC Code does not define a Loaded Firearm.**

### State Emergency Powers

Handgunlaw.us can find no specific laws on the “Emergency Powers” of the Governor or other state officials. That does not mean there are no laws covering this topic but that they just couldn’t be found. During a state of emergency a Governor has very broad powers that are mainly restrained by law. If there are no laws limiting a Governor in what they can or cannot do they can do just about anything they deem appropriate in an Emergency and let things get sorted out after the emergency is past. Looking at New Orleans after Katrina shows you what they can or will do if there are no laws restraining State Government(s).

**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.

### Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

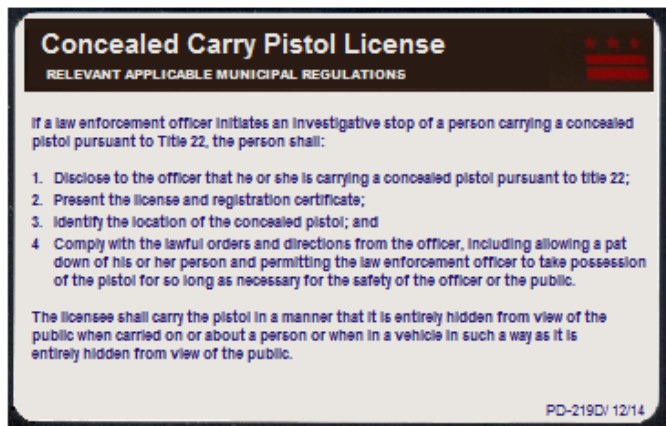
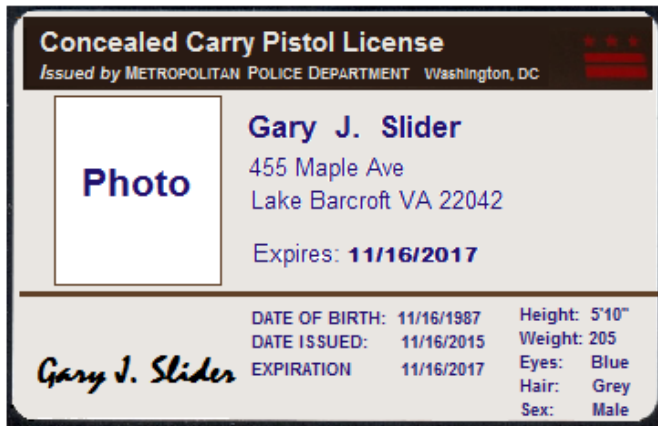
**DC**            **21 Y/O**            **Title 7. Subtitle J. Public Safety. Chapter 25. Firearms Control.**  
**Unit A. Firearms Control Regulations, Subchapter II firearms and**  
**Destructive Devices. § 7-2502.03.**

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. DC requires all firearms be registered.

**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 image gives a very good representation of the District of Columbia Carry License.

## Updates to this Page

### [Archive of Previous Updates](#)

**6/1/16** – A Stay in the Ruling on Just Cause Issued. Notice in How to Apply Section Updated.

**7/1/16** – Virginia Now Honors the DC Permit.

**8/1/16** – All Links Checked.

**1/1/17** – Missouri Added as Permitless Carry State to List of States Under Map at Top of Page.

**2/1/17** – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.

**2/24/17** – New Hampshire Added as Permitless Carry State to List of States Under Map at Top of Page.

**3/30/17** - Chem Sprays/Stun Guns/Higher Cap Mags Section Update. DC Repealed Ban on Stun Guns and Registration of Chemical Spays.