

Sheriffs have Online Applications. Check your local Sheriff's website for more information.

Permit is valid for 5 years. Fingerprints are not required. The issuing authority can't make you supply additional documentation or place restrictions on your permit. You must be 21 Years of age for a Non Professional Permit and 18 for a Professional Permit.

Cost is \$50.00 Renewal \$25.00 There is word that Sheriffs that issue the plastic card type permit will charge an extra \$5 to \$10 for the Plastic Permit. Some will give you a paper permit at no extra charge.

A Permit to carry a weapon is issued by the Sheriff of the county you reside in. To make application you must appear in person at the County Sheriff s Office with a picture ID (ie: Iowa Driver's License or Iowa I D card) reflecting a County address. You will then be required to complete the application for a permit to carry a weapon application.

Note: The process will not change on how to apply. The forms etc will but the process is the same.

724.7 Nonprofessional Permit to Carry Weapons.

Any person who is not disqualified under section 724.8, who satisfies the training requirements of section 724.9, and who files an application in accordance with section 724.10 shall be issued a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons. Such permits shall be on a form prescribed and published by the commissioner of public safety, which shall be readily distinguishable from the professional permit, and shall identify the holder of the permit. Such permits shall not be issued for a particular weapon and shall not contain information about a particular weapon including the make, model, or serial number of the weapon or any ammunition used in that weapon. All permits so issued shall be a period of five **years and shall be valid throughout the state except where the possession or carrying of a firearm is prohibited by state or federal law.**

Acceptable Training: 724.9

- Completion of any National Rifle Association (NRA) handgun safety training course.
- Completion of any handgun safety training course available to the general public offered by a law enforcement agency, community college, college, private or public institution or organization, or firearms training school, utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or certain other firearms training certifying bodies (such as the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy).
- Completion of any handgun safety training course offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of a law enforcement or security enforcement agency approved by the Iowa Department of Public Safety.
- Completion of small arms training while serving with the armed forces of the United States as evidenced by any of the following:
- Completion of a law enforcement agency firearms safety training course that qualifies a peace officer to carry a firearm in the normal course of the peace officer's duties.
- Completion of a hunter education program approved by the natural resource commission pursuant to section 483A.27, if the program includes handgun safety training and completion of the handgun safety training is included on the certificate of completion.
- The handgun safety training course required in subsection 1 may be conducted over the internet in a live or web-based format, if completion of the course is verified by the instructor or provider of the course.
- Firearm safety training shall not be required for renewals of permits issued after December 31, 2010.

Range qualification may be part of a training program identified above; however, range qualification is not a mandatory element of training for initial issuance of a permit.

Note: Renewal: The Permit Application states you must apply at least 30 days before your Permit expires.

Non-Resident Permits

Non-Residents can apply but the criteria is very narrow to qualify.

Applications for permits to carry weapons will be considered by the Iowa Department of Public Safety as follows:

- Residency - Applicants must be nonresidents of Iowa or state employees whose need to go armed is based on their state employment. [§724.11]
- Justification
 1. Professional permits to carry will only be issued to qualified applicants if their need to go armed is employment based and is a critical element in the protection of life and property.
 2. Nonprofessional permits to carry will only be issued to:
 - a. nonresident correctional officers and other public officials, other than law enforcement officers, who are currently employed fulltime in the administration of criminal justice
 - b. other nonresidents with a demonstrable viable threat to themselves or their family as verified by a law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the threat occurred

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

Court Houses Off Limits

In June 2017 the Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady has put out a ruling that carry in all courthouses in Iowa is illegal. You can read a transcript of the ruling [Here](#). A Supervisory Order issued by the Iowa Supreme Court 12/19/17 will allow for the controlling entity of the Court House to modify the order. You can read that Supervisory Order [Here](#).

724.4B Carrying Weapons on School Grounds—Penalty—Exceptions.

1. A person who goes armed with, carries, or transports a firearm of any kind, whether concealed or not, on the grounds of a school commits a class "D" felony. For the purposes of this section, "school" means a public or nonpublic school as defined in section 280.2.
2. Subsection 1 does not apply to the following:
 - a. A person listed under section 724.4, subsection 4, paragraphs "b" through "f" or "j".
 - b. A person who has been specifically authorized by the school to go armed, carry, or transport a firearm on the school grounds, including for purposes of conducting an instructional program regarding firearms.
 - c. A licensee under chapter 80A or an employee of such licensee, while the licensee or employee is engaged in the performance of duties, and if the licensee or employee possesses a valid profession or nonprofessional permit carry weapons issued pursuant to this chapter. 95 Acts, Cj 191, §53; 2012 Acts, ch 90 207; 2017 Acts ch 69, §7

IA Admin Code 281-43.38 Driver Restrictions. (No Firearms on a School Bus)

43.38(1) The driver of a school bus shall not smoke when there are passengers on the bus.

43.38(2) The driver shall not permit firearms to be carried in the bus.

IA Admin Code [491-5.4\(6\)](#) Firearms Possession Within Casino.

- a. No patron or employee of the licensee, including the security department members, shall possess or be permitted to possess any pistol or firearm within a casino without the express written approval of the administrator unless:
- (1) The person is a peace officer, on duty, acting in the peace officer's official capacity; or
 - (2) The person is a peace officer possessing a valid peace officer permit to carry weapons who is employed by the licensee and who is authorized by the administrator to possess such pistol or firearm while acting on behalf of the licensee within that casino.

IA Admin Code [8A.322](#) Carry in/on Capitol Buildings and Grounds (Legal, Concealed Only)

3. The director shall establish, publish, and enforce rules regulating and restricting the use by the public of the capitol buildings and grounds and of the state laboratories facility in Ankeny. **The rules when established shall be posted in conspicuous places about the capitol buildings and grounds.....** The rules shall prohibit a person from openly carrying a pistol or revolver in the capitol building and on the grounds surrounding the capitol building including state parking lots and parking garages. However, this subsection shall not be construed to allow the director to prohibit the carrying, transportation, or possession of any pistol or revolver in the capitol building and on the grounds surrounding the capitol building including state parking lots and parking garages when the carrying, transportation, or possession is otherwise lawful under the laws of this state.

Note: Handgunlaw.us is hearing the New Rules adopted by Capitol Security are stating only the Capitol Building and that other State Office Buildings around the Capitol do not fall under the new law.

[371-2.5](#) Public Safety—Weapons. (State Fair Grounds)

The carrying or possession by any person other than a peace officer of any weapon, such as a dirk, dagger, hunting knife, buck knife, switch blade, or any knife with a blade of three inches in length or longer, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, pellet or BB gun, blackjack, billy club or any other weapon is prohibited on the fairgrounds unless authorized by the board. Failure to comply with this rule shall be cause for expulsion from the fairgrounds or being charged under Iowa Code chapter 724. Kitchen knives and others purchased at the fair must be wrapped and not concealed.

Carry on All Terrain Vehicles/Snowmobiles Legal

Title VIII – Transportation [321G.13](#) & [321I.14](#) Unlawful Operation

[321I.14](#) 2. a. A person shall not operate or ride an all-terrain vehicle with a firearm in the person's possession unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, except as otherwise provided. However, a nonambulatory person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm while operating or riding an all-terrain vehicle.

- b. (1) A person may operate or ride on an all-terrain vehicle with a loaded pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, if a person is operating or riding the all-terrain vehicle on land that is not owned, possessed, or rented by the person, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful.
- (2) A person may operate or ride on an all-terrain vehicle with a loaded pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, if a person is operating or riding the all-terrain vehicle on land that is not owned, possessed, or rented by the person, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful.
- c. A person shall not discharge a firearm while on an all-terrain vehicle, except that a nonambulatory person may discharge a firearm from an all-terrain vehicle while lawfully hunting if the person is not operating or

riding a moving all-terrain vehicle.

321G.13 2. a. A person shall not operate or ride a snowmobile with a firearm in the person's possession unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, except as otherwise provided. However, a nonambulatory person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm while operating or riding a snowmobile.

b. (1) A person may operate or ride a snowmobile with a loaded firearm, whether concealed or not, without a permit to carry weapons, if the person operates or rides on land owned, possessed, or rented by the person, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful.

(2) A person may operate or ride on a snowmobile with a loaded pistol or revolver, whether concealed or not, if a person is operating or riding the snowmobile on land that is not owned, possessed, or rented by the person, and the person's conduct is otherwise lawful.

Note: (7/1/18) I put this here as Iowa has changed the wording in their laws on carrying on All Terrain/Snowmobiles the last four years.

681-9.1(2)(g), 681.13.14(5) & 681-13.19 of the Iowa Administrative Code:

State Universities. Prohibits use or possession of firearms, ammunition, or other dangerous weapons, substances, or materials (except as expressly authorized by the university), or of bombs, explosives, or explosive or incendiary devices prohibited by law on the campus of the three state universities (U of I, Iowa State, UNI) or at or during any university-authorized function or event by any person, student, member of the faculty or staff.

Note: In the Administrative Rules for the above sections defines a Person as: "Person" means any student, member of the faculty or staff, or visitor. The Law is very gray so I would not be the test case for carrying on Colleges and Universities in Iowa until further information becomes available.

724.29 Firearm Devices.

A person who sells or offers for sale a manual or power-driven trigger activating device constructed and designed so that when attached to a firearm increases the rate of fire of the firearm is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.

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

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

"NO"

"Handgunlaw.us highly recommends that you not enter a place that is posted "No Firearms" no matter what the state laws read/mean on signage. We recommend you print out the [No Guns = No Money Cards](#) and give one to the owner of the establishment that has the signage." As responsible gun owners and upholders of the 2nd Amendment we should also honor the rights of property owners to control their own property even if we disagree with them."

"No Firearm" signs in Iowa have no force of law unless they are posted on property that is specifically mentioned in State Law as being off limits to those with a Permit/License to Carry. If you are in a place not specifically mentioned in the law that is posted and they ask you to leave, you must leave. If you refuse to leave then you are breaking the law and can be charged. Even if the property is not posted and you are asked to leave you must leave. Always be aware of the possibility that responding Police Officers who may have

been called without your knowledge and may not know the laws on trespass etc. could arrest you even if you are within the law.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

“NO”

724.5 Duty to Carry Permit to Carry Weapons.

A person armed with a revolver, pistol, or pocket billy concealed upon the person shall have in the person's immediate possession the permit provided for in **section 724.4, subsection 4**, paragraph "i", and shall produce the permit for inspection at the request of a peace officer. Failure to so produce a permit is a simple misdemeanor. 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §695.15; C79, 81, §724.5] 90 Acts, ch 1168, §60

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: **YES** [Per DNR Director Letter](#)

State/National Forests: **YES** [Per DNR Director Letter](#)

State Preserves/WMA's **YES** [Per DNR Director Letter](#)

Road Side Rest Areas: **YES** per ISP

RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

724.4 Carrying Weapons.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who goes armed with a dangerous weapon concealed on or about the person, or who, within the limits of any city, goes armed with a pistol or revolver, or any loaded firearm of any kind, whether concealed or not, or who knowingly carries or transports in a vehicle a pistol or revolver, commits an aggravated misdemeanor.

f. A person who for any lawful purpose carries or transports an unloaded pistol or revolver in a vehicle inside a closed and fastened container or securely wrapped package which is too large to be concealed on the person or inside a cargo or luggage compartment where the pistol or revolver will not be readily accessible to any person riding in the vehicle or common carrier.

Note: When a motor home is used as a residence (Parked) or place of business (Parked), no permit is required. When it is being used as transportation the firearm must be stored.

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Open Carry is legal but with many restrictions in Iowa. You must have a valid permit to carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle. Open Carry in Incorporated areas is illegal without a valid permit/license. (See 724.4 below) Places as listed in the “Places Off Limits” above apply to those who open carry. See the “RV/Car Carry Without a Permit” section for carrying in a vehicle. From all I hear Open carry is not common. Remember that if you enter any property and the owner/responsible person ask you to leave you must leave. Failure to leave can result in Trespass Charges. The Minimum age for Open Carry is 21.

724.4 Carrying Weapons.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who goes armed with a dangerous weapon concealed on or about the person, or who, within the limits of any city, goes armed with a pistol or revolver, or any loaded firearm of any kind, whether concealed or not, or who knowingly carries or transports in a vehicle a pistol or revolver, commits an aggravated misdemeanor.

4. Subsections 1 through 3 do not apply to any of the following:

- i. A person who has in the person's possession and who displays to a peace officer on demand a valid permit to carry weapons which has been issued to the person, and whose conduct is within the limits of that permit. A person shall not be convicted of a violation of this section if the person produces at the person's trial a permit to carry weapons which was valid at the time of the alleged offense and which would have brought the person's conduct within this exception if the permit had been produced at the time of the alleged offense.

In some states Open Carry is forbidden in places where those with a valid permit/license can carry. This is not the last word on Open Carry in this state. Check at www.opencarry.org or go to Google and type in State Name Open Carry or Open Carry State Name for a search for open carry info in this state. Check with this [State's RKBA](#) Organization/s. Also see "Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases" Section for any written opinions/Cases on Open Carry.

State Preemption

724.28 Prohibition of Regulation by Political Subdivisions.

1. As used in this section, "*political subdivision of the state*" means a city, county, or township.
2. A political subdivision of the state shall not enact an ordinance regulating the ownership, possession, legal transfer, lawful transportation, registration, or licensing of firearms when the ownership, possession, transfer, or transportation is otherwise lawful under the laws of this state. An ordinance regulating firearms in violation of this section existing on or after April 5, 1990, is void.
3. If a political subdivision of the state, prior to, on, or after July 1, 2017, adopts, makes, enacts, or amends any ordinance, measure, enactment, rule, resolution, motion, or policy regulating the ownership, possession, legal transfer, lawful transportation, registration, or licensing of firearms when the ownership, possession, transfer, transportation, registration, or license is otherwise lawful under the laws of this state, a person adversely affected by the ordinance, measure, enactment, rule, resolution, motion, or policy may file suit in the appropriate court for declarative and injunctive relief for damages. A court shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing plaintiff in any such suit.

Deadly Force Laws

Chapter 704 Force - Reasonable or Deadly – Defenses

- 704.1** Reasonable Force.
- 704.2** Deadly Force.
- 704.2A** Justifiable Use of Deadly Force.
- 704.3** Defense Of Self Or Another.
- 704.4** Defense Of Property.
- 704.5** Aiding Another In The Defense Of Property.

- 704.6 When Defense Not Available.
- 704.7 Resisting Forcible Felony.
- 704.8 Escape From Place Of Confinement.
- 704.9 Death.
- 704.10 Compulsion.
- 704.11 Police Activity.
- 704.12 Use Of Force In Making An Arrest.
- 704.13 Immunity
- 707.6 Civil liability

Knife Laws State/Cities

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

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES

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

Title XVI

Chapter 702

[702.7](#) Dangerous weapon.

A “*dangerous weapon*” is any instrument or device designed primarily for use in inflicting death or injury upon a human being or animal, and which is capable of inflicting death upon a human being when used in the manner for which it was designed, except a bow and arrow when possessed and used for hunting or any other lawful purpose. Additionally, any instrument or device of any sort whatsoever which is actually used in such a manner as to indicate that the defendant intends to inflict death or serious injury upon the other, and which, when so used, is capable of inflicting death upon a human being, is a dangerous weapon. Dangerous weapons include but are not limited to any offensive weapon, pistol, revolver, or other firearm, dagger, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, knife having a blade exceeding five inches in length, **or any portable device or weapon directing an electric current, impulse, wave, or beam that produces a high-voltage pulse designed to immobilize a person.**

C79, 81, §702.7] 88 Acts, ch 1164, §1; 2008 Acts, ch [1151, §1](#)

Note: Since an electric defensive device is considered a Dangerous Weapon it would take a permit/license to carry a firearm to carry such device on your person.

LEOSA State Information

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

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- [Iowa AG - State Preemption](#)
- [Iowa Supreme Ct. – Stun Guns are Lethal Weapons](#)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Airport Carry: No laws found.

Training Valid for: 2 Years

Time Period to Establish Residency: Upon obtaining state ID/Drivers License

Minimum Age for Permit/License: 18 If Needed for Employment. Otherwise 21

Permit/License Info Public Information: NO 724.23

State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute: 724.11A

State Fire arm Laws: Title 16-724.1 thru 724.30 & Iowa Admin Code 661-91.1 thru 661-91.9

State Deadly Force Laws: Title 16-704.1 thru 704.12

State Knife Laws: 16-702.7. & 16-724.1. & 16-724.4.

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: 719.7

Body Armor Laws: Title XVI Subtitle 1 724.31

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? YES 724.4 & 661—4.1(724)

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? YES Per DNR [FAQs](#)

Notes

What Does IA Consider A Loaded Firearm?

[483A.35](#) “Gun” defined.

The word “gun” as used in this chapter shall include every kind of a gun or rifle, except a revolver or pistol, and shall include those provided with pistol mountings which are designed to shoot shot cartridges.

[483A.36](#) Manner of Conveyance.

A person, except as permitted by law, shall not have or carry a gun in or on a vehicle on a public highway, unless the gun is taken down or totally contained in a securely fastened case, and its barrels and attached magazines are unloaded.

Note: Though this definition only applies to Long guns or those that shoot shot shells I can find no other definition of “Loaded” in Iowa Law. Handgunlaw.us believes that this definition of loaded would be used in Iowa Courts as what would be considered a “Loaded Handgun.” See RV/Car Carry Section Above.

State Emergency Powers

Title 1 - State Sovereignty & Management - Subtitle 12 - Chapter 29c

29C.6 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency by Governor. (Edited for Space Considerations)

In exercising the governor's powers and duties under this chapter and to effect the policy and purpose, the governor may:

15. Control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises in such area.
16. Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives, and combustibles.

29C.25 Firearms and Ammunition — Limitations — Exceptions — Remedies.

1. This chapter shall not be construed to authorize the governor or any other official of this state or any of its political subdivisions or any agent or person acting at the direction of the governor or any such official to do any of the following:

- a. Prohibit, regulate, or curtail the otherwise lawful possession, carrying, transportation, transfer, or defensive use of firearms or ammunition.
- b. Suspend or revoke, except in accordance with section 724.13, a permit issued pursuant to section 724.6, 724.7, or 724.15.
- c. Seize or confiscate firearms and ammunition possessed in accordance with the laws of this state.

2. This section shall not prohibit any of the following:

- a. The temporary closure or limitations on the operating hours of businesses that sell firearms or ammunition if the same operating restrictions apply to all businesses in the affected area.
- b. The adoption or enforcement of regulations pertaining to firearms and ammunition used or carried for official purposes by law enforcement officers or persons acting under the authority of emergency management agencies or officials.

3. a. A person aggrieved by a violation of this section may seek relief in an action at law or in equity or in any other proper proceeding for actual damages, injunctive relief, or other appropriate redress against a person who commits or causes the commission of such violation.

- b. In addition to any other remedy available at law or in equity, a person aggrieved by the seizure or confiscation of a firearm or ammunition in violation of this section may make application pursuant to section 809.3 for its return in the office of the clerk of court for the county in which the property was seized.
- c. In an action or proceeding to enforce this section, the court shall award the prevailing plaintiff reasonable court costs and attorney fees.

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. The state quoted code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

Iowa 21 Y/O Title XVI Subtitle I [724.22](#)

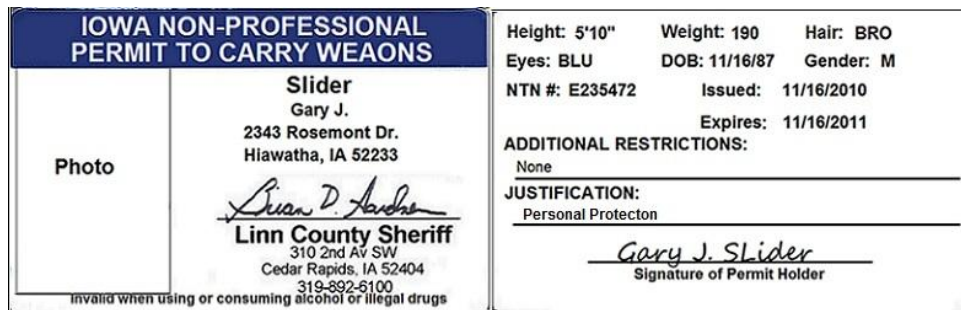
This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

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.

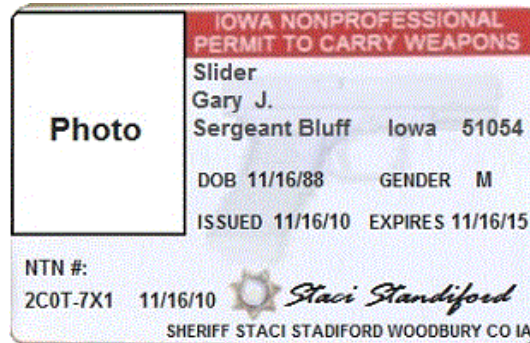
This is not the last word on possession and transporting of handguns in this, or any other state. Study your state law further for more information. See “RV/Car Carry” Section Above for more information.

Permit/License Image

This is a 1 year restricted permit image. The new unrestricted 5 year permit should have the same format but they could redo part of the permit to eliminate the Additional restrictions line.



These images have been digitally assembled from 2 or more images. They may not be 100% accurate but give a good representation of the actual Permit/License. I have been told that the wording at the bottom of the image “Invalid when using or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs” may not be at the bottom of every permit issued in Iowa. A Polk Co. Permit Holder states his has “NONPROFESSIONAL” in that location. Different counties have different formats.



From what Info I can gather Iowa is now issuing one format for the whole state. Handgunlaw.us is not sure we have the latest format.

Updates to this Page

[Archive of Previous Updates 1](#)

12/27/17 – Link to IA Supreme Ct Supervisory Order Modifying Court Houses Restrictions Added to Places Off Limits Section.

2/10/18 – All Links Checked.

4/4/18 – All Statute Links Updated to Iowa Statute 2018 Edition

4/17/18 – Map Updated. Pennsylvania Only Honors the Resident Iowa Permit.

7/1/18 – Carry On All Terrain/Snowmobiles Wording Updated In Places Off Limits Section. All Links Checked.

7/27/18 - In Places Off Limits Section (c) was added to Statute 724.4B. Note Added on carry on School Property.

11/1/18 - St. Sheriffs and Deputies Association FAQs Link Added to Links Section.

11/11/18 – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.

12/1/18 – Age to Carry a Firearm in Other States Link Added to Bottom of Links Section