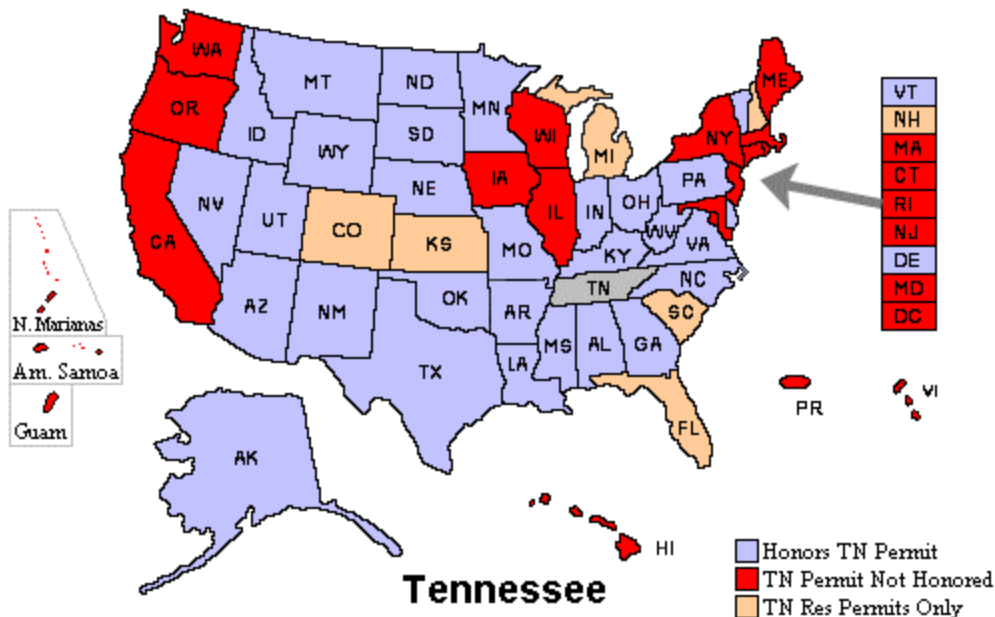


Tennessee

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer: **NO**



Links

[State CCW Site](#)

[State CCW Pamphlet](#)

[CCW Application](#)

[State FAO Site](#)

[State Statutes](#)

[State Admin Rules](#)

[State Reciprocity Info](#)

[State Attorney General](#)

[TN CCW Laws](#)

[Secretary of State](#)

Last Updated: 3/9/10

Permits/Licenses This State Honors

Tennessee honors all other states Permit/Licenses.

Tennessee Honors Non-Resident Permits/Licenses

How to Apply for A Permit

How Do I Obtain a Handgun Carry Permit?

To obtain a handgun carry permit in Tennessee, you must first successfully complete a handgun safety course offered by a handgun safety school that is certified by the Department of Safety.

You should then make application at any full service [Driver Service Center](#). You will need to bring with you the original copy of your safety course completion certificate, [Proof of US Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residency](#), photo identification such as your Driver License, and \$115 **NON-REFUNDABLE** permit fee. This fee may be paid in cash, money order or with a certified check. If there are no problems with the application and you meet all eligibility requirements, you should receive your permit within 90 days of the date you submit your application.

When your application is processed at the Driver Service Center, you will be given instructions on being fingerprinted.

- **Effective July 1, 2005, all handgun permit applicants seeking a new permit must provide [proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residency](#).**

Even though a person has a permit and is authorized to possess or carry a firearm pursuant to T.C.A. 39-17-1315 or 39-17-1351, there are restrictions as to where firearms may be carried. Additional information pertaining to possession of and carrying a firearm are listed by [Tennessee Annotated Code and Subject Matter](#). More information can be obtained online from the [Tennessee Annotated Code Lookup](#)

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Processing

- Applications are received and reviewed in the Handgun Carry Permit Office.
- Proper documentation is forwarded to three (3) different agencies: (TBI, FBI, County Sheriff).
- Upon a name search approval from TBI, the permit can be issued within ninety (90) days from date of application.
- Upon issuance, the handgun carry permit will be mailed to the applicant.
- Incomplete applications cannot be processed.
- Fees Are Non-Refundable

Non-Resident Permits

Tennessee will issue Non-Resident Permit/Licenses to individuals who meet the qualifications as listed below.

39-17-1351. Handgun carry permits

(C) (i) If a person who is a resident of and handgun permit holder in another state is employed in this state on a regular basis and desires to carry a handgun in this state, the person shall have six (6) months from the last day of the sixth month of regular employment in this state to obtain a Tennessee handgun carry permit. The permit may be issued based on the person having a permit from another state provided the other state has substantially similar permit eligibility requirements as this state. However, if during the six-month period the person applies for a handgun permit in this state and the application is denied, the person shall not be allowed to carry a handgun in this state based upon the other state's permit.

(ii) The provisions of this subdivision (r)(3)(C) shall not apply if the state of residence of the person employed in Tennessee has entered into a handgun permit reciprocity agreement with this state pursuant to this subsection (r).

(iii) As used in this subdivision (r)(3)(C), “employed in this state on a regular basis” means a person has been gainfully employed in this state for at least thirty (30) hours a week for six (6) consecutive months not counting any absence from employment caused by the employee's use of sick leave, annual leave, administrative leave or compensatory time.

Places Off-Limits Even With A Permit/License

- Any room in which judicial proceedings are in progress.
- Any public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field or any other property owned, used or operated by any board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution.
- It is not an offense for a nonstudent adult to possess a firearm, if such firearm is contained within a private vehicle operated by the adult and is not handled by such adult, or by any other person acting with the express or implied consent of such adult, while such vehicle is on school property.
- If Posted on the grounds of any playground, civic center or other building facility, area or property owned, used or operated by any municipal, county or state government, or instrumentality thereof, for recreational purposes. **Note: 39-17-1311 (b)(iv) States:** A person may enter the property for the sole purpose of delivering or picking up passengers and who does not remove any weapon from the vehicle or utilize it in any manner.

- An individual, corporation, business entity or government entity or agent thereof is authorized to prohibit possession of weapons by any person otherwise authorized by this subsection, at meetings conducted by, or on premises owned, operated, managed or under control of such individual, corporation, business entity or government entity. Notice of such prohibition shall be posted in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the building, portion of the building or buildings where weapon possession is prohibited. Cities/Counties can post their parks.

39-17-1305(c), Restaurant Carry in places that serve Alcohol has been ruled Unconstitutional. 11/20/09. So carry in any place that serves alcohol is illegal until another court rules or the law is passed again by the Legislature.

§ 39-17-1359. Prohibition at certain meetings - Posting notice.

(a) An individual, corporation, business entity or local, state or federal government entity or agent thereof is authorized to prohibit the possession of weapons by any person otherwise authorized by [§ 39-17-1351](#) - [§ 39-17-1360](#), at meetings conducted by, or on property owned, operated, or managed or under the control of such individual, corporation, business entity or government entity. Notice of such prohibition shall be posted. Posted notices shall be displayed in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the building, portion of the building or buildings where weapon possession is prohibited. If the possession of weapons is also prohibited on the premises of any such property as well as within the confines of a building located on such property, the notice shall be posted at all entrances to the premises that are primarily used by persons entering the property. The notice shall be in English but a notice may also be posted in any language used by patrons, customers or persons who frequent the place where weapon possession is prohibited. In addition to the sign, notice may also include the international circle and slash symbolizing the prohibition of the item within the circle. The sign shall be of a size that is plainly visible to the average person entering the building, premises or property and shall contain language substantially similar to the following:

Pursuant to [§ 39-17-1359](#), the owner/operator of this property has banned weapons on this property, or within this building or this portion of this building. Failure to comply with this prohibition is punishable as a criminal act under state law and may subject the violator to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, reduce or eliminate any civil or criminal liability that a property owner or manager may have for injuries arising on their property.

(c) Any posted notice being used by a local, state or federal governmental entity on July 1, 2000 that is in substantial compliance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section may continue to be used by such governmental entity.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to title 70 regarding wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

39-17-1307, Unlawful carrying or possession of a weapon.

(e) It is an exception to the application of this section that a person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to [§ 39-17-1351](#), is transporting a rifle or shotgun in or on a privately-owned motor vehicle, and the rifle or shotgun does not have ammunition in the chamber. However, such a person does not violate this section by inserting ammunition into the chamber if the ammunition is inserted for purposes of justifiable self-defense pursuant to [§§ 39-11-611](#) or [39-11-612](#).

Land Between The Lakes (USDA Forest Service)

General Regulations:

12. Possession, transportation or discharge of firearms, air guns, crossbows, bows and arrows or other weapons and explosives, including fireworks, is prohibited except authorized hunting equipment during set hunt dates.

The Tennessee AG has issued an Opinion stating:

Reading Tenn. Code Ann. §39-17-1309 together with Chapter 428 indicates that the legislature intended to allow handgun carry permit holders to carry their firearms into public parks except onto athletic fields and into other recreation areas at times when they are actually being used by schools.

(You can read the complete opinion by scrolling down to the Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases and click on “**Tennessee AG – Carry in Parks/Recreation Areas when School Function is going on.**”)

House Bill 770 was just signed by the Governor on or about 3/7/10 allowing bow hunters to carry their concealed defensive handgun with them while bow hunting. This law takes effect immediately.

Carry In State Parks/State & National Forests/WMA/Road Side Rest Areas

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: YES

State/National Forests: YES (HB0961 Passed 7/09)

WMA's & Public Hunting Areas: YES

Road Side Rest Areas: YES Unless Posted

Land between the lakes is still off limits. This area does not fall under the new National Park/National Wildlife Areas in the new Federal Regulations.

RV/Car Carry Without A Permit/License

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License.

State Preemption

39-17-1314. Local regulation of firearms and ammunition preempted by state regulation - Actions against firearms or ammunition manufacturers, trade associations or dealers.

(a) No city, county, or urban-county government shall occupy any part of the field of regulation of the transfer, ownership, possession or transportation of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or combinations thereof; provided, that the provisions of this section shall be prospective only and shall not affect the validity of any ordinance or resolution lawfully enacted before April 8, 1986.

(b) The general assembly declares that the lawful design, marketing, manufacture and sale of firearms and ammunition to the public are not unreasonably dangerous activities and do not constitute a nuisance per se.

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(c) (1) The authority to bring suit and right to recover against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer by or on behalf of any state entity, county, municipality or metropolitan government for damages, abatement or injunctive relief resulting from or relating to the lawful design, manufacture, marketing or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public shall be reserved exclusively to the state.

(2) Nothing in this subsection (c) shall be construed to prohibit a county, municipality, or metropolitan government from bringing an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer or dealer for breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by such county, municipality, or metropolitan government.

(3) Nothing in this subsection (c) shall preclude an individual from bringing a cause of action for breach of a written contract, breach of an express warranty, or for injuries resulting from defects in the materials or workmanship in the manufacture of the firearm.

(d) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply in any litigation brought by an individual against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer.

[Acts 1989, ch. 591, § 1; 1999, ch. 293, §§ 1, 2.]

Deadly Force Laws

39-11-611. Self-defense.

Knife Laws State/Cities

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

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

NO (Court ruled new Law unconstitutional so carry in restaurants that serve is now illegal.)

Note: What is defined as carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol is a place like Friday’s or Red Lobster. This does not mean a bar or the bar area of a restaurant. 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.

Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

Handgunlaw.us could find no restrictions in Tennessee Law concerning Chemical Sprays, Stun Guns Or Higher Capacity Magazine Bans.

LEOSA State Information

[State LEOSA Info](#)

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- [Tennessee AG - Open/Concealed Carry ruling](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Possession on Government Owned Property](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Parks and Playgrounds](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Park Buildings](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Posting of Private Buildings](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Clarification on Carrying In Parks During School Function](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Carry in Parks/Recreation Areas when School Function is going on.](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Landlords can ban firearms possession by renters on rental property.](#)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Airport Carry: Building/Lots must be posted for law to apply § 39-17-1359.

Training Valid for: 6 Months.

Time Period to Establish Residency: 30 Days

Minimum Age for Permit/License: 21

Permit/License Info Public Information: Yes

State Fire arm Laws: 39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1361

State Deadly Force Laws: 39-11-611

State Knife Laws: 39-17-1397 & 39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1310

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: 39-13-803

Body Armor Laws: 39-17-1323

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? NO 39-17-1351.

Updates to this Page

6/17/09 – Carry in Restaurants that serve Alcohol updated with new law allowing such carry. Effective 7/14/2009. State Park Carry Changed to Yes effective immediately. Local City/County Parks can be posted.

7/10/09 – Reciprocity Map changed to show that WV will honor non resident permit/licenses.

7/11/09 – Carry in State/National Forests and WMA's now legal. (HB0961 Passed 7/09)

7/15/09 – Carry in Parking lots when dropping off or picking up people on St. Gov. Property Info Added.

7/26/09 - Map Updated

7/28/09 – AG opinion added on Carry in Parks/Recreation Areas when School Function is going on.

8/4/09 – Reference removed about Parks being Off Limits by law.

8/22/09 – All links checked and repaired if needed.

8/31/09 - NE now honors a TN permit.

9/1/09 – Removed reference to carry in places that serve alcohol that was the old law.

9/4/09 – WMA are legal to carry in. The new law only applied to carrying Hunting guns in WMA's

9/23/09 - Link to AG Opinion Repaired

10/31/09 - AG Opinion on Landlords banning firearms on their property added.

11/4/09 – Long gun into in automobiles added to Places off Limits. Link Repaired.

11/6/09 – Wording and Law link added to Long gun carry in autos. How to apply wording on proving citizenship updated.

11/16/09 – Regulation on carrying on Land Between the Lakes Added to Places off Limits.

11/20/09 – Carry in places that serve alcohol has been ruled unconstitutional. Places off limits updated.

2/22/10 – Reference about LBL being run by Corp of Eng. Was not removed when LBL info was updated on 11/16/09

3/6/10 – AG Opinion Added. Carry in Parks better explained.

3/9/10 – Bow Hunters can now carry their concealed defensive firearm while bow hunting.