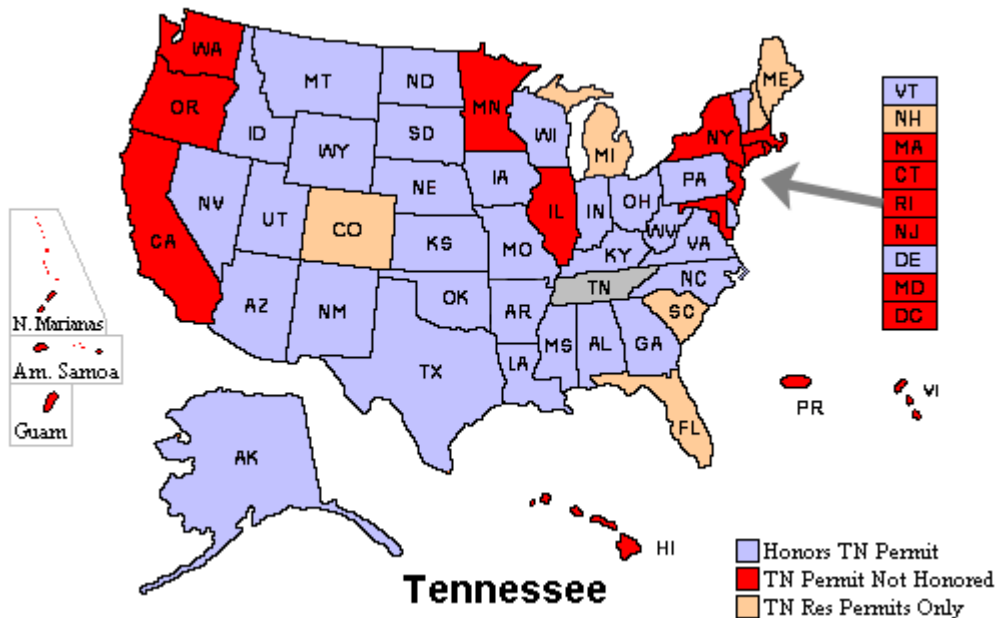


# Tennessee

**Shall Issue**

**Must Inform Officer by Law: NO**  
(See Must Inform Section Below)



## Links

[State CCW Site](#)

[State CCW Pamphlet](#)

[Steps To Apply for Permit](#)

[State FAQ Site](#)

[State Statutes](#)

[State Admin Rules](#)

[State Reciprocity Info](#)

[State Attorney General](#)

[TN CCW Laws](#)

[Secretary of State](#)

**Last Updated: 6/17/17**

**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

Tennessee honors all other states Permit/Licenses.

**Tennessee Honors Non-Resident Permits/Licenses From the States They Honor.**

## Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

### 39-17-1351. Handgun Carry Permits.

(r) (1) A facially valid handgun permit, firearms permit, weapons permit or license issued by another state shall be valid in this state according to its terms and shall be treated as if it is a handgun permit issued by this state; provided, however, the provisions of this subsection (r) shall not be construed to authorize the holder of any out-of-state permit or license to carry, in this state, any firearm or weapon other than a handgun.

(2) For a person to lawfully carry a handgun in this state based upon a permit or license issued in another state, the person must be in possession of the permit or license at all times the person carries a handgun in this state.

(3) (A) The commissioner of safety shall enter into written reciprocity agreements with other states that require the execution of the agreements. The commissioner of safety shall prepare and publicly publish a current list of states honoring permits issued by the state of Tennessee and shall make the list available to anyone upon request. The commissioner of safety shall also prepare and publicly publish a current list of states who, after inquiry by the commissioner, refuse to enter into a reciprocity agreement with this state or honor handgun carry permits issued by this state. To the extent that any state may impose conditions in the

reciprocity agreements, the commissioner of safety shall publish those conditions as part of the list. If another state imposes conditions on Tennessee permit holders in a reciprocity agreement, the conditions shall also become a part of the agreement and apply to the other state's permit holders when they carry a handgun in this state.

(B) If a person with a handgun permit from another state decides to become a resident of Tennessee, the person must obtain a Tennessee handgun permit within six (6) months of establishing residency in Tennessee. 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.

## How to Apply for a Permit

Tennessee now offers online applications for New Applicants. [Click here to access Handgun Permits online](#). Be sure to select the **Handgun Permits** tab to get started.

### 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. Tennessee will now accept two forms used by the Military which capture combat pistol training (CG-3029, DD-2586, DA-88-R and AF-522). These forms can now be used to verify military handgun training.

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 **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. ([Fee Chart](#))

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](#).

### 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 ([Fee Chart](#))

### 39-17-1351

(b) Except as provided in subsection (r), any resident of Tennessee who is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident, as defined by § 55-50-102, may apply to the department of safety for a handgun carry permit. If the applicant is not prohibited from possessing a firearm in this state pursuant to § 39-17-1307(b), 18 U.S.C. § 922(g), or any other state or federal law, and the applicant otherwise meets all of the requirements of this section, the department shall issue a permit to the applicant; provided:

- (1) The applicant is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; or
- (2) The applicant is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
  - (A) Is an honorably discharged or retired veteran of the United States armed forces or is a member of the United States armed forces on active duty status; and
  - (B)
    - (i) Includes with the application a certified copy of the applicant's certificate of release or discharge from active duty, department of defense form 214 (DD 214); or
    - (ii) Includes with the application a military identification card or such other document as the commissioner designates as sufficient proof that the applicant is an active duty member of the military.

### Lifetime License

#### 39-17-1351

(x) (1) Any resident of Tennessee who is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident, as defined by § 55-50-102, who has reached twenty-one (21) years of age, may apply to the department of safety for a lifetime handgun carry permit. If the applicant is not prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm in this state pursuant to § 39-17-1316 or § 39-17-1307(b), 18 U.S.C. § 922(g), or any other state or federal law, and the applicant otherwise meets all of the requirements of this section, the department shall issue a permit to the applicant. The lifetime handgun carry permit shall entitle the permit holder to carry any handgun or handguns the permit holder legally owns or possesses and shall entitle the permit holder to any privilege granted to handgun carry permit holders. The requirements imposed on handgun carry permit holders by this section shall also apply to lifetime handgun carry permit holders.

See [Fee Chart](#) for costs.

## 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

(r) (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) 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.
- 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.

\*See Parking Lot Storage Law Section for Storage on Public Post Secondary Education Institutes.

### Attorney General Opinion on Carrying in/on Property of a Church School. Complete Opinion [Here](#).

- it is a criminal offense to possess or carry weapons, including firearms, on those portions of the property of a religious institution being used for school purposes.
- The prohibition against carrying weapons applies only to those portions of the property of the religious institution being used for school purposes.
- The prohibition against carrying a firearm on the property of a religious institution applies only while the property is being used or operated by the school.

### **39-17-1311. Carrying Weapons on Public Parks, Playgrounds, Civic Centers and Other Public Recreational Buildings and Grounds.**

(a) It is an offense for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, with the intent to go armed, any weapon prohibited by § 39-17-1302(a), not used solely for instructional, display or sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in or on the grounds of any public park, 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.

(b) (1) Subsection (a) shall not apply to the following persons:

(A) Persons employed in the army, air force, navy, coast guard or marine service of the United States or any member of the Tennessee national guard when in discharge of their official duties and acting under orders requiring them to carry arms or weapons;

(E) Any pupils who are members of the reserve officers training corps or pupils enrolled in a course of

instruction or members of a club or team, and who are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their official class or team duties;

(G) A registered security guard/officer, who meets the requirements of title 62, chapter 35, while in the performance of the officer's duties;

**(H) *Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351, while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality, or instrumentality thereof;***

(I) Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351, while within or on property designated by the federal government as a national park, forest, preserve, historic park, military park, trail or recreation area, to the extent permitted by federal law

(g) For the purposes of this section, a "greenway" means an open-space area following a natural or man-made linear feature designed to be used for recreation, transportation, conservation, and to link services and facilities. A greenway is a paved, gravel-covered, woodchip covered, or wood-covered path that connects one greenway entrance with another greenway entrance. In the event a greenway traverses a park that is owned or operated by a county, municipality or instrumentality thereof, the greenway shall be considered a portion of that park unless designated otherwise by the local legislative body. Except as provided in this part, the definition of a greenway in this section shall not be applicable to any other provision of law.

**HISTORY:** Acts 1989, ch. 591, § 1; 1990, ch. 1029, § 9; 1993, ch. 480, §§ 1-3; 1996, ch. 1009, § 23; 2009, ch. 428, §§ 1, 2; 2010, ch. 1006, § 1; 2015, ch. 250, §§ 1, 2, 5.

**Note:** From what I am hearing if a school sponsored function or event is taking place in the park a person carrying under the new law can't be in the "Immediate Area" of the event/function but the rest of the park etc would be OK. Use Caution as "Immediate Area" is not defined in the new law.

**Note:** Cities/Counties are not allowed to post Parks. Their old No Gun Signs are still up in some parks. By law they didn't have to remove them until they needed replaced as they have more than just No Firearms Allowed restrictions listed on them. Permit Holders can carry in those parks as stated in 39-17-3311 (H).

### **39-17-1307, Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon.**

(a) (1) A person commits an offense who carries with the intent to go armed a firearm or a club.

(2) (A) The first violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor, and, in addition to possible imprisonment as provided by law, may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(B) A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor.

(e) (1) It is an exception to the application of subsection (a) that a person is carrying or possessing a firearm, loaded firearm, or firearm ammunition in a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat if the person:

(A) Is not prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm by 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) or purchasing a firearm by § 39-17-1316; and

(B) Is in lawful possession of the motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat.

(2) (A) As used in this subsection (e):

(i) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in § 55-1-103; and

(ii) "Recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in § 55-17-102.

(B) This subsection (e) shall not apply to a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat that is:

- (i) Owned or leased by a governmental or private entity that has adopted a written policy prohibiting firearms or ammunition not required for employment within the motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat; and
- (ii) Provided by such entity to an employee for use during the course of employment.

**39-16-201. Introduction or Possession of Weapons, Explosives, Intoxicants or Drugs into a Penal Institution Where Prisoners are Quartered.**

(b) It is unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Knowingly and with unlawful intent take, send or otherwise cause to be taken into any penal institution where prisoners are quartered or under custodial supervision any weapons, ammunition, explosives, intoxicants, legend drugs, or any controlled substances found in chapter 17, part 4 of this title;

**39-17-1314. Local Regulation of Firearms and Ammunition Preempted By State Regulation -- Actions Against Firearms or Ammunition Manufacturers, Trade Associations Or Dealers.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided by state law or as specifically provided in subsection (b), the general assembly preempts the whole field of the regulation of firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof including, but not limited to, the use, purchase, transfer, taxation, manufacture, ownership, possession, carrying, sale, acquisition, gift, devise, licensing, registration, storage, and transportation thereof, to the exclusion of all county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government law, ordinances, resolutions, enactments or regulation. No county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government nor any local agency, department, or official shall occupy any part of the field regulation of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof.

**Full time Employees as defined below can carry on Public Institutions of Higher Education.**

**39-17-1309, (e)**

(9)(A) Employees authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 on property owned, operated, or controlled by the public institution of higher education at which the employee is employed;

(B)(i) Any authorized employee who elects to carry a handgun pursuant to this subdivision (e)(9) shall provide written notification to the law enforcement agency or agencies with jurisdiction over the property owned, operated, or controlled by the public institution of higher education that employs the employee;

(C) Unless carrying a handgun is a requirement of the employee's job description, the carrying of a handgun pursuant to this subdivision (e)(9) is a personal choice of the employee and not a requirement of the employer. Consequently, an employee who carries a handgun on property owned, operated, or controlled by the public institution of higher education at which **the employee is employed is not:**

- (iv) Permitted to carry a handgun openly, or in any other manner in which the handgun is visible to ordinary observation; or
- (v) Permitted to carry a handgun at the following times and at the following locations:
  - (a) Stadiums, gymnasiums, and auditoriums when school sponsored events are in progress;
  - (b) In meetings regarding disciplinary matters;
  - (c) In meetings regarding tenure issues;
  - (d) A hospital, or an office where medical or mental health services are the primary services provided; and

(e) Any location where a provision of state or federal law, except the posting provisions of § 39-17-1359, prohibits the carrying of a handgun on that property; (1 O)(A) Any employee of the University of Tennessee institute of agriculture or a college or department of agriculture at a campus in the University of Tennessee system when in the discharge of the employee's official duties and with prior authorization from the chancellor of the University of Tennessee institute of agriculture;

(E) As used in subdivisions (e)(9)-(11):

- (i) "Employee" includes all faculty, staff, and other persons who are employed on a full-time basis by a public institution of higher education; and
- (ii) "Employee" does not include a person who is enrolled as a student at a public institution of higher education, regardless of whether the person is also an employee;

**Note:** Handgunlaw.us recommends you talk to the Police Agency over the Public Institution you work full time at. They will have a procedure set up on how to officially notify them and most likely have information for your particular school. Handgunlaw.us believes you are only authorized to carry your firearm on the property of the Institution that employs you full time.

**49-50-803 & 49-7-161.** States that Private K-12 and Private Colleges/Universities will have a written firearms policy. That it must be disseminated so that everyone knows the rules. They can ban firearms totally from their campus buildings and property and or only let certain people carry or let anyone carry. You would have to look at the schools policy to know each schools rules/regs.

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### **Land Between The Lakes (USDA Forest Service (Valid Permit/License Carry Allowed)**

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**United States Forest Service**

**Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area**

**ORDER NO. 60-01-13 and 60-09-13** (Edited for Space Considerations)

Pursuant to the provisions of 16 U.S.C. Section 551, and Title 36 C.F.R. Section 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts or omissions are prohibited on lands and waters within the legislative jurisdiction of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The area consists of over 170,000 acres of National Forest land located in Trigg and Lyon County in Kentucky and Stewart County in Tennessee, and is depicted on the attached map.

1. Possession of firearms is prohibited except during legal firearms hunting seasons by licensed hunters and going to and from the LBL-NRA firearms range. Firearms must be cased and unloaded during transport. 36 CFR 261.53(e)
2. Firearms possessed during legal hunting seasons by licensed hunters must be cased and unloaded (chamber and magazine) while being transported in a motorized vehicle. 36 CFR 261.53(e)

**The above prohibited acts are set forth in Title 36 C.F.R., Section 261.**

**Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.50(e) the following persons are exempt from the provisions of the above order.**

- 1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act.**
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer in the performance of an official duty.

**Note:** I received this email in April 2010.

Kathryn Harper

Manager, Communication Services

USDA Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

<http://www.landbetweenthe lakes.us/>

[www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us)

Below is the information LE&I provides to the public in regards to possessing firearms at LBL NRA:

1. Possession of firearms is prohibited except during legal firearms hunting seasons by licensed hunters and going to and from the LBL NRA firearms range. Firearms must be cased and unloaded during transport.
2. Firearms possessed during legal hunting seasons by licensed hunters must be cased and unloaded (chamber + magazine) while being transported in a motorized vehicle.
3. LBL LE&I also states that the concealed firearms carry permit does not apply to LBL NRA at this time, although the LE officers at LBL will honor the concealed carry permit if there are no other aggravating circumstances. Examples of aggravating circumstances are, but not limited to, violation of the concealed carry permit itself, shooting from a roadway, or shooting outside of the LBL firearms range”.

#### **Firearms on Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA Property)**

4. **Firearms and Weapons** - TVA campgrounds may receive use by hunters during hunting season. While firearms and weapons are generally prohibited, possession of firearms and other weapons associated with in-season hunting excursions are permissible if they are unloaded and properly cased. **Possession of firearms at TVA public ramps, associated roads, and parking areas are allowed if the possession complies with the law of the state where the boat ramp is located and is not otherwise prohibited by law.**

**Note:** Day Use Areas, Campgrounds, and other developed recreational TVA lands are still off limits. TVA lands where Hunting is presently allowed, Undeveloped Shorelines, Boat Ramps, Boat Ramp Parking Areas and Associated Roads for those areas is where carry will be allowed.

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

#### **Do “No Gun Signs” Have the Force of Law?**

**“YES”**

#### **39-17-1359. Prohibition at Certain Meetings — Posting Notice. —**

(a) (1) Except as provided in § 39-17-1313, 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 who is at a meeting conducted by, or on property owned, operated, or managed or under the control of the individual, corporation, business entity or government entity.

(2) The prohibition in subdivision (a)(1) shall apply to any person who is authorized to carry a firearm by authority of § 39-17-1351

(b) (1) Notice of the prohibition permitted by subsection (a) shall be accomplished by displaying the notice described in subdivision (b)(3) in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the property, building, or portion of the property or building where weapon possession is prohibited. The notice shall be plainly visible to the average person entering the building, property, or portion of the building or property, posted.

(2) The notice required by this section shall be in English, but a duplicate notice may also be posted in any language used by patrons, customers, or persons who frequent the place where weapon possession is prohibited.

(3) (A) A sign shall be used as the method of posting. The sign shall include the phrase “NO FIREARMS ALLOWED”, and the phrase shall measure at least one inch (1”) high and eight inches (8”)



wide. The sign shall also include the phrase “As authorized by T.C.A. § 39-17-1359”.

**(B)** The sign shall include a pictorial representation of the phrase “NO FIREARMS ALLOWED” that shall include a red circle with a red diagonal line through the circle and a black image of a firearm inside the red circle under the diagonal line. The entire pictorial representation shall be at least four inches (4”) high and four inches (4”) wide. The diagonal line shall be at a forty-five degree (45°) angle from the upper left to the lower right side of the circle.

**(C)** A building, property or a portion of a building or property, shall be considered properly posted in accordance with this section if one (1) or both of the following is displayed in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the property, building, or portion of the property or building where weapon possession is prohibited:

**(4)** An individual, corporation, business entity, or government entity that, as of January 1, 2015, used signs to provide notice of the prohibition permitted by subsection (a) shall have until January 1, 2018, to replace existing signs with signs that meet the requirements of subdivision (b)(3).

**(c) (1)** It is an offense to possess a weapon in a building or on property that is properly posted in accordance with this section.

**(2)** Possession of a weapon on posted property in violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by fine only of five hundred dollars (\$500).

**(d)** 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.

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

**(f)** This section shall not apply to the grounds of any public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality or instrumentality thereof. The carrying of firearms in those areas shall be governed by § 39-17-1311. HISTORY: Acts 1996, ch. 905, § 11; 2000, ch. 929, § 1; 2009, ch. 428, § 4; 2010, ch. 1009, § 3; 2013, ch. 16, § 2. 2016

### **Title 39 – Chapt. 17 – Part 13 New Section** (Edited for Space Considerations)

**(a)** A person, business, or other entity that owns, controls, or manages property and has the authority to prohibit weapons on that property by posting, pursuant to § 39-17-1359, shall be immune from civil liability with respect to any claim based on such person's, business's, or other entity's failure to adopt a policy that prohibits weapons on the property by posting pursuant to § 39-17-1359.

**(b)** Immunity under this subsection (a) does not apply to a person, business, or other entity whose conduct or failure to act is the result of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

**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**

### **Parking Lot Storage on Post Secondary Education Institutions**

Law signed by Governor 4/14/16 Effective Immediately. Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding

the following as a new, appropriately designated section: *No public postsecondary institution shall take any adverse or disciplinary action against an employee or student of the postsecondary institution for such person's transportation and storage of a firearm or firearm ammunition in compliance with § 39-17-1313 while on or using a parking area located on property owned, used, or operated by the postsecondary institution.* **Note:** See 39-17-1313 below for how it is to be transported/stored in a Motor Vehicle.

### **39-17-1313.**

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law or any ordinance or resolution adopted by the governing body of a city, county or metropolitan government, including any ordinance or resolution enacted before April 8, 1986, that prohibits or regulates the possession, transportation or storage of a firearm or firearm ammunition by a handgun carry permit holder, the holder of a valid handgun carry permit recognized in Tennessee may, unless expressly prohibited by federal law, transport and store a firearm or firearm ammunition in the permit holder's motor vehicle, as defined in § 55-1-103, while on or utilizing any public or private parking area if:

- (1) The permit holder's motor vehicle is parked in a location where it is permitted to be; and
- (2) The firearm or ammunition being transported or stored in the motor vehicle:
  - (A) Is kept from ordinary observation if the permit holder is in the motor vehicle; or
  - (B) Is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, glove box, or interior of the person's motor vehicle or a container securely affixed to such motor vehicle if the permit holder is not in the motor vehicle.

(b) No business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property shall be held liable in any civil action for damages, injuries or death resulting from or arising out of another's actions involving a firearm or ammunition transported or stored by the holder of a valid handgun carry permit in the permit holder's motor vehicle unless the business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property commits an offense involving the use of the stored firearm or ammunition or intentionally solicits or procures the conduct resulting in the damage, injury or death. Nor shall a business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property be responsible for the theft of a firearm or ammunition stored by the holder of a valid handgun carry permit in the permit holder's motor vehicle

(c) For purposes of this section:

- (1) "Motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle as defined in § 55-1-103, which is in the lawful possession of the permit holder, but does not include any motor vehicle which is owned or leased by a governmental or business entity and that is provided by such entity to an employee for use during the course of employment if the entity has adopted a written policy prohibiting firearms or ammunition not required for employment within the entity's motor vehicles; and
- (2) (A) "Parking area" means any property provided by a business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property for the purpose of permitting its invitees, customers, clients or employees to park privately owned motor vehicles; and
- (B) "Parking area" does not include the grounds or property of an owner-occupied, single-family detached residence, or a tenant-occupied single-family detached residence.

(d) A handgun carry permit holder transporting, storing or both transporting and storing a firearm or firearm ammunition in accordance with this section does not violate this section if the firearm or firearm ammunition is observed by another person or security device during the ordinary course of the handgun carry permit holder securing the firearm or firearm ammunition from observation in or on a motor vehicle.

**HISTORY:** Acts 2013, ch. 16, § 1; 2014, ch. 498, § 1; 2014, ch. 505, §§ 1 - 6; 2014, ch. 768, § 1.

### **50-1-312.**

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Employee" means a natural person who performs services for an employer for valuable consideration and who possesses a valid handgun carry permit recognized in this state; and

(2) "Employer" means a person, association, or legal or commercial entity receiving services from an employee and, in return, giving compensation of any kind to the employee.

(b)(1)(A) No employer shall discharge or take any adverse employment action against an employee solely for transporting or storing a firearm or firearm ammunition in an employer parking area in a manner consistent with § 39-17-1313(a).

(B) An employee discharged, or subject to an adverse employment action, in violation of subdivision (b)(1)(A) shall have a cause of action against the employer to enjoin future acts in violation of this section and to recover economic damages plus reasonable attorney fees and costs.

(C) Any action brought under this section shall be filed in the chancery or circuit court having jurisdiction in the county where the alleged violation of subdivision (b)(1)(A) occurred.

(2) In any action brought pursuant to this section, the employee shall have the burden of establishing a prima facie case of discharge, or adverse employment action, based solely on the employee's transporting or storing a firearm or firearm ammunition in the employer's parking area in a manner consistent with § 39-17-1313(a). If the employee satisfies this burden, the burden shall then be on the employer to produce evidence that one (1) or more legitimate reasons existed for the employee's discharge or adverse employment action. The burden on the employer is one of production and not persuasion. If the employer produces such evidence, the presumption of discharge, or adverse employment action, raised by the employee's prima facie case is rebutted, and the burden shifts to the employee to demonstrate that the reason given by the employer was not the true reason for the employee's discharge, or adverse employment action, and that the stated reason was a pretext for discharge or adverse employment action. The allocations of burdens of proof set out in this subdivision (b)(2) shall apply at all stages of the proceedings, including motions for summary judgment. The employee at all times retains the burden of persuading the trier of fact that the employee has been the victim of discharge, or adverse employment action, based solely on the employee's adherence with § 39-17-1313(a).

(3) The employee has one (1) year from the date of termination of employment, or the date of adverse employment action, to file an action pursuant to this section.

(c) The presence of a firearm or ammunition within an employer's parking area in accordance with § 39-17-1313 does not by itself constitute a failure by the employer to provide a safe workplace.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in § 39-17-1313 for parking areas, nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting an employer from prohibiting firearms or firearm ammunition on the premises of the employer.

**HISTORY:** Acts 2015, ch. 80, § 1.

## Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

**“NO”**

### 39-17-1351

(n) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (n)(2), a permit issued pursuant to this section shall be good for eight (8) years and shall entitle the permit holder to carry any handgun or handguns that the permit holder legally owns or possesses. The permit holder shall have the permit in the holder's immediate possession at all times when carrying a handgun and shall display the permit on demand of a law enforcement officer.

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

### Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: **YES**

State/National Forests: **YES**

State WMA's & Public Hunting Areas: **YES**

Road Side Rest Areas: **YES** Unless Posted

## RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

**Note:** If you can legally own a firearm you can carry it openly or concealed in a privately owned vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry. The Firearm can be anywhere in the vehicle **but it can't be on your person.**

### 39-17-1307. Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon. —

- (a) (1) A person commits an offense who carries with the intent to go armed a firearm or a club.
- (2) (A) The first violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor, and, in addition to possible imprisonment as provided by law, may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).
- (B) A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor.
- (e) (1) It is an exception to the application of subsection (a) that a person is carrying or possessing a firearm, loaded firearm, or firearm ammunition in a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat if the person:
- (A) Is not prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm by 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) or purchasing a firearm by § 39-17-1316; and
- (B) Is in lawful possession of the motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat.
- (2) (A) As used in this subsection (e):
- (i) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in § 55-1-103; and
- (ii) "Recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in § 55-17-102.
- (B) This subsection (e) shall not apply to a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat that is:
- (i) Owned or leased by a governmental or private entity that has adopted a written policy prohibiting firearms or ammunition not required for employment within the motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or motorized boat; and
- (ii) Provided by such entity to an employee for use during the course of employment.

### 39-17-1308. Defenses to Unlawful Possession or Carrying of a Weapon. —

- (a) It is a defense to the application of [§ 39-17-1307](#) if the possession or carrying was:
- (1) Of an unloaded rifle, shotgun or handgun not concealed on or about the person and the ammunition for the weapon was not in the immediate vicinity of the person or weapon;

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

Open Carry is only legal for those with a valid permit/license to carry a concealed firearm. For Carry in a vehicle without a permit/license see “RV/Car Carry Section.” I hear that open carry in cities is rare but more common in rural areas. 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.

The state preempts firearm laws but did allow local laws/ordinances at the time preemption passed (April 8, 1986) to be grandfathered. 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.

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](http://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 the [State's RKBA](#) Organization/s. Also see “Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases” Section for any written opinions/Cases on Open Carry.

## 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) Except as otherwise provided by state law or as specifically provided in subsection (b), the general assembly preempts the whole field of the regulation of firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof including, but not limited to, the use, purchase, transfer, taxation, manufacture, ownership, possession, carrying, sale, acquisition, gift, devise, licensing, registration, storage, and transportation thereof, to the exclusion of all county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government law, ordinances, resolutions, enactments or regulation. No county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government nor any local agency, department, or official shall occupy any part of the field regulation of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof.

(b) A city, county, town, municipality or metropolitan government is expressly authorized to regulate by ordinance, resolution, policy, rule or other enactment the following:

(1) The carrying of firearms by employees or independent contractors of the city, county, town municipality or metropolitan government when acting in the course and scope of their employment or contract, except as otherwise provided in § 39-17-1313;

(2) The discharge of firearms within the boundaries of the applicable city, county, town, municipality or metropolitan government, except when and where the discharge of a firearm is expressly authorized or permitted by state law;

(3) The location of a sport shooting range, except as otherwise provided in §§ 39-17-316 and 13-3-412; and

(4) The enforcement of any state or federal law pertaining to firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof.

(c) 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.

(d) (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 (d) 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 (d) 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.

(e) Subsections (c) and (d) shall not apply in any litigation brought by an individual against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer.

(f) It is the intent of the general assembly that this part is preemptive with respect to the transfer, ownership, possession or transportation of knives and no city, county, or metropolitan government shall occupy any part of the field of regulation of the transfer, ownership, possession or transportation of knives.

**HISTORY:** Acts 1989, ch. 591, § 1; 1999, ch. 293, §§ 1, 2; 2009, ch. 428, § 3; 2013, ch. 418, § 1; 2014, ch. 822, § 1.

## Deadly Force Laws

**39-11-601.** Justification a defense.

**39-11-602.** Justification definitions.

**39-11-603.** Confinement as justifiable force.

**39-11-604.** Reckless injury of innocent third person.

**39-11-605.** Civil remedies unaffected.

**39-11-609 .** Necessity.

**39-11-610.** Public duty.

**39-11-611.** Self-defense.

**39-11-612.** Defense of third person.

**39-11-613.** Protection of life or health.

**39-11-614.** Protection of property.

**39-11-615.** Protection of third person's property.

**39-11-616.** Use of device to protect property.

**39-11-620.** Use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer.

**39-11-621.** Use of deadly force by private citizen.

**39-11-622.** Justification for use of force — Exceptions — Immunity from 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**

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](#) (Training Center Has Training for LEOSA During the Year)

See the LEOSA Section on the [USA Page](#) at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

## **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 – Clarification on Carrying In Parks During School Function](#)
- [Tennessee AG - Landlords can ban firearms possession by renters on rental property.](#)
- [Tennessee AG – Parking Lot Storage Law Opinion.](#)
- [TN AG - Possession of Firearms in Public Parks Owned by Counties and Municipalities](#)
- [TN AG – Firearms on/in Church Schools](#)

## **Airport Carry/Misc. Information**

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

**Training Valid for:** 12 Months

**Time Period to Establish Residency:** 30 Days

**Minimum Age for Permit/License:** 21 ( 18 for Veterans/Active Military)

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

**State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute:** 39-17-1351.

**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.

**Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal?** **YES** TN Wildlife Resources Agency Hunting and Trapping Guide.

## Notes

**What Does TN Consider A Loaded Firearm?**

[39-17-1319](#) & [39-17-1301](#)

(18) “Unloaded” means the rifle, shotgun or handgun does not have ammunition in the chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine, and no clip or magazine is in the immediate vicinity of the weapon.

### State Emergency Powers

[58-2-107](#). **Emergency Management Powers of the Governor. (Edited for Space Considerations)**

(a) (1) The governor is responsible for addressing the dangers presented to this state and its people by emergencies. In the event of an emergency beyond local control, the governor, or, in the governor's absence, the governor's successor as provided by law, may assume direct operational control over all or any part of the emergency management functions within this state, and such person has the power through proper process of law to carry out this chapter. The governor is authorized to delegate such powers as the governor may deem prudent.

(2) Pursuant to the authority vested in the governor under subdivision (a) (1), the governor may issue executive orders, proclamations, and rules and may amend or rescind them. Such executive orders, proclamations, and rules have the force and effect of law.

(b) The governor or the governor's designee, shall declare a state of emergency or a disaster declaration in one (1) of two (2) ways:

- (1) By executive order or proclamation; or
- (2) By the activation of the TEMP.

(2) These two (2) types of threats may be declared by the governor if the governor finds an emergency has occurred or the occurrence of threat thereof is imminent. The state of emergency shall continue until the governor finds that the threat or danger has been dealt with to the extent that the emergency conditions no longer exist and the governor terminates the state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, but no state of emergency may continue for longer than sixty (60) days unless renewed by the governor. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this section shall indicate the nature of the emergency, the area or areas threatened, and the conditions which have brought the emergency about or which make possible its termination. An executive order or proclamation shall be promptly disseminated by means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and, unless the circumstances attendant upon the emergency prevent or impede such filing, the order or proclamation shall be filed promptly with the department of state and in the office of the chief executive officer in each county to which the order or proclamation applies.



(e) In addition to any other powers conferred upon the governor by law, the governor may:

(1) Suspend the provisions of any law, order, rule or regulation prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such law, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

(4) Subject to any applicable requirements for compensation, commandeer or utilize any private property, which term shall not be construed to include firearms, ammunition, or firearm or ammunition components, if the governor finds this necessary to cope with the emergency;

(5) Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state if the governor deems this action necessary for the preservation of life or other emergency mitigation, response, or recovery;

(6) Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuation;

(7) Control ingress and egress to and from an emergency area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein;

(8) Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives, or combustibles, which terms shall not be construed to include firearms, ammunition, or firearm or ammunition components;

(11) Take measures concerning the conduct of civilians, the movement and cessation of movement of pedestrian and vehicular traffic prior to, during, and subsequent to drills and actual or threatened emergencies, the calling of public meetings and gatherings, and the evacuation and reception of civilian population, as provided in the TEMP and political subdivisions thereof; and

(m) During any state of emergency, major disaster or natural disaster, the state, a political subdivision or a public official shall not prohibit nor impose additional restrictions on the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transport, carrying, storage, display or use of firearms and ammunition or firearm and ammunition components.

**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.**

**Tennessee 18 Y/O 39-17-1319**

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

I do not know if there is any information on the reverse of this Permit.



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/Licenses  
The Image on the right is the newest format for Tennessee.

## Updates to this Page

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

**10/15/16** – Training Valid For Changed from 1 Year to 6 Months in Airport Carry/Misc. Section.

**1/1/17** – Minnesota No Longer Honors Tennessee. Missouri Added as Permitless Carry State to List of States Under Map at Top of Page.

**1/6/17** – Washington State No Longer Honors Tennessee. Training Valid For Period Updated to 12 months in Airport Carry/Misc Section.

**2/8/17** – 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.

**4/27/17** - 39-17-1307 (e) Wording Updated in Places Off Limits and RV/Car Carry Section Per HB 688.

**6/17/17** – Info and link for Online Applicants Added to How to Apply section.