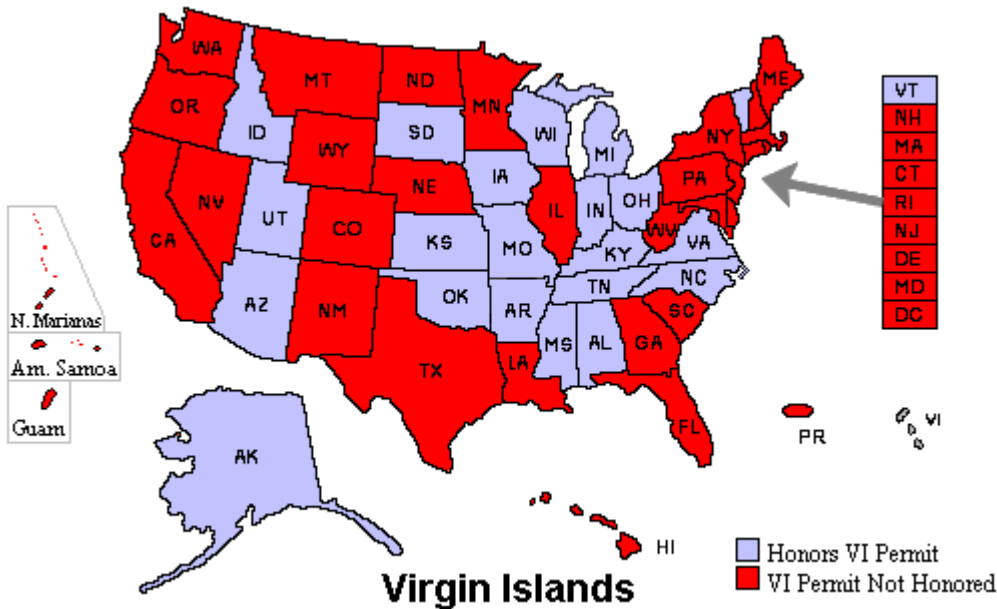


U.S. Virgin Islands

May Issue

Must Inform Officer Immediately: **NO**

(See Must Inform Section Below)



**US Virgin Islands
CCW Links**

[State CCW Site](#)

[Gun Laws \(BATFE\)](#)

CCW Application

State FAQ Site

[State Statutes](#)

State Admin Rules

State Reciprocity Info

[State Attorney General](#)

[U.S. Virgin Is. Police
Firearm Rules/Regs](#)

Last Updated: 9/10/17

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.

[Idaho](#), [North Dakota](#) and [Wyoming](#) have “Permitless Carry” for their Residents only.

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

Note: Though the U.S. Virgin Islands has Reciprocity in their statutes Handgunlaw.us can't find any listing of states or anyone in authority in the Islands that will state that they do honor other states Permit/Licenses to Carry .

U.S. Virgin Islands firearms laws on Possession, Application, etc can be viewed in [Title 23 Chapter 5](#) of the VI Code.

[Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 460.](#) Reciprocal recognition of out-of-state licenses

Unless otherwise prohibited by any state or federal law, a license to possess or to carry firearms, issued by any competent authority of any state or territory of the United States and in accordance with the same or similar requirements as set forth in the preceding sections pertaining to the applicant's eligibility, and the establishment of his reputation through fingerprints, shall be recognized as valid within the Virgin Islands and shall allow the holder thereof to exercise all of the privileges in connection therewith, while said licensee is a visitor or transient resident herein.

Any marshal, sheriff, constable, police or other peace officer, of any state or territory of the United States, whose duty it is to serve process and make arrests, may, while travelling through or in the Virgin Islands on official business, carry such weapons or equipment as has been authorized by his appointing authority.

History: --Added July 11, 1968, No. 2279, § 1, Sess. L. 1968, Pt. II, p. 209.

[From the Firearms Bureau](#)

Bringing Firearms into the Virgin Islands: The Firearms Bureau recommends that you Do Not bring your States side licensed firearm into our beautiful islands if you will only be visiting for a short while.

If you bring firearms into the islands without contacting the Firearms Bureau, you can have your firearm(s) confiscated and be prosecuted in accordance to the laws of the US Virgin Islands.

We do recognize law enforcement and/or retired law enforcement officers' licenses **once you have the credentials and met our criteria.**

Here in the Virgin Islands we are very strict on firearms and ammunition. When coming into the United States Virgin Islands please call our office to find out our rules and regulations on firearms we will be happy to assist you.

If you come into the US Virgin Islands with a firearm you must IMMEDIATELY contact the Firearms bureau according to VI law.

St. Croix
(340) 712-6058
or (340) 712-6023

St. Thomas
(340) 715-5519
or (340) 715 -5563

How to Apply for a Permit

Licenses

Types of firearms licenses - the following are the types of firearms licenses that can be applied for at the Firearms Unit:

- Blue, Business Protection
- Yellow, Home protection and handguns only (For use ONLY at the residential address that is typed on the license)
- Gray, farming and long guns only (This license can also be used for boat and home protection)
- White, all active law enforcement
- Pink, current and retired law enforcement, personal protection, and special circumstances
- (Green, target shooting, sports use and home protection (With the target shooting license you must be a member of a gun club. The firearm must be unloaded when travelling to and from the range using the most direct route.)

[Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 454a.](#) Persons Who May Be Licensed To Carry A Concealed Handgun On A 24-Hour Basis

(a) To obtain a license to carry a concealed handgun on 24-hour basis, the applicant must be at least 21 years of age, and in addition to the information required to be submitted with an application for a firearm license under section 455(a), an applicant for 24-hour concealed handgun license must also submit either of the following:

- (1) evidence of experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competitions or current military service; or
- (2) evidence that, at the time the application is submitted, the applicant is a certified firearm instructor; or
- (3) proof of an honorable discharge from a branch of the United States Armed Forces which reflects firearm qualifications obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the application; or
- (4) certification showing retirement from a Virgin Islands law enforcement agency which reflects firearm

qualifications obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the application; or

- (5) a certificate of completion from a handgun training class obtained within the ten years preceding submittal of the application which includes the original signature of the class instructor; and
- (6) a full-face frontal view color photograph of the applicant taken within the 30 days immediately preceding submittal of the license application, showing the applicant's full head, including hair and facial features, and the depiction of the applicant's head must measure one and one-eighth inches wide and one and one-fourth inches high. The applicant need not submit a photograph if the Commissioner photographs the applicant for purposes of issuing the license.

(b) A person who has been issued a license to carry a concealed handgun on a 24-hour basis, shall carry the license and the valid photo identification at all times when the person is in actual possession of the handgun and shall produce both documents upon request by a law enforcement officer. Failure to produce the license upon request by a law enforcement officer raises a rebuttable presumption that the person does not have a license. The licensee has 24 hours after the request to produce the license and identification to the Commissioner. If the licensee does not produce the license and the identification card within 24 hours after the request, the Commission may suspend or cancel the license.

(c) As used in this section the term--

(1) "Handgun training class" means:

- (A) a law enforcement training firearms safety course;
- (B) a firearms safety course offered by a law enforcement agency, an institution of higher education, or a public or private institution or organization or firearms training school that is open to the general public and is taught by a certified firearms instructor; or
- (C) a firearms safety course or class that is offered and taught by a certified firearms instructor.

(2) "Training certificate" means a certificate, affidavit, or other document issued by the instructor, school, club, or organization that conducts a handgun training class that evidences an applicant's successful completion of the class requirements.

(d) In addition to meeting the specific requirements of this section, an applicant for a firearm license under this section must also meet all the other requirements set forth in the other applicable provisions of this chapter and any other applicable provision of the Code.

History: --Added Jan. 26, 2016, No. 7826, § 1(b), Sess. L. 2015, p. 230, 231.

Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 455. Application For License; Form, Oath; Fees

(a) Every application for a license to have and possess a firearm shall be made under oath and on forms which the Commissioner shall prepare for such purpose. For the purposes of the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, the applicant shall furnish all information as may be required of him by the Commissioner.

(b) The initial fee for a license under section 454 of this chapter shall be \$ 75.00. The license may be renewed every three years for a fee of \$ 150.00.

(c) Upon renewal of a license to have and possess a firearm, the receipt from the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department (V.I.P.D.) for the renewal fee will serve as a temporary license until the official license can be provided to the licensee by the Commissioner.

(d) The Commissioner shall ensure that the renewal license is presented to the licensee within forty-five (45) days of receipt of payment for the renewal fee.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no person shall be charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm if the subject weapon had been previously licensed and said license has expired not more than ninety (90) days prior to arrest; Provided, however, That this subsection shall not apply to persons who

possess, bear, transport, carry or have under their control in any vehicle, any firearm during the commission or attempted commission of a crime of violence, as defined in subsection (d) of section 2253, Title 14, Virgin Islands Code. History: --Amended No. 6099, § 2, Sess. L. 1996, p. 32; July 14, 2003, No. 6585, § 21, Sess. L. 2003, p. 32.

Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 456. Qualifications of Applicant

(a) The Commissioner shall not issue a license for firearms under section 454 of this chapter until all the circumstances and facts set forth in the application have been investigated, and the records of the Department and other available records have been examined, and unless such investigation establishes to the satisfaction of the Commissioner:

- (1) the truth of such circumstances and facts;
- (2) that the applicant is a resident of the Virgin Islands, including with respect to shotguns or rifles a minor not under 16 years of age, or a nonresident who holds a current and valid license to hunt in the Virgin Islands, or an alien bonded under applicable Federal and Virgin Islands statutes for employment with a person, firm, corporation or other business entity duly licensed in the Virgin Islands to carry on the business of providing security, guard, patrol and private detective services; Provided, however, That in the case of any such bonded alien the license shall be issued to the business entity by which he is employed;
- (3) that the applicant is a person of good moral character;
- (4) that the applicant's fingerprints have been duly taken and/or checked with the records of the Department or other appropriate sources;
- (5) that a check has been conducted of all available state and federal criminal data banks and that the issuance of a license to possess a firearm in the Virgin Islands does not violate any state or federal law; and
- (6) that no proper reason exists to deny such application.

History: --Amended July 11, 1968, No. 2279, § 1, Sess. L. 1968, Pt. II, p. 209; Nov. 19, 1969, No. 2593, § 1, Sess. L. 1969, p. 400; amended Jan. 26, 2016, No. 7826, § 1(c), Sess. L. 2015, p. 231 .

Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 457. Contents of License

(a) A license issued pursuant to the provisions of sections 454 and 454a of this chapter must be in duplicate and shall provide for the following:

- (1) the name, address, description, and signature of the licensee and the reason for giving the license;
- (2) That the same is not transferable and shall be carried by the licensee at all times when in possession of the firearm for which it was issued;
- (3) The term thereof, which shall not exceed three years but a 24-hour concealed handgun license is for a term of three years;
- (4) Places where, times when, and circumstances under which the firearm may be carried;
- (5) Description of the firearm authorized to be carried, showing the serial number, if any;
- (6) Grounds for issuance;
- (7) Grounds for revocation;
- (8) Provision that the owner of the firearm shall present the firearm annually on the anniversary of the date of licensing for inspection by the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department (V.I.P.D.).
- (9) A dealer's coupon which shall be removed and retained by any person who sells or otherwise provides the licensee with any firearm contemplated in such license.

(b) The original license must be delivered to the licensee not later than 30 days after the filing of the

application, and the duplicate must be preserved for at least 10 years.

HISTORY: --Amended July 11, 1968, No. 2279, § 1, Sess. L. 1968, Pt. II, p. 209; Oct. 20, 1981, No. 4637, §§ 2, 3, Sess. L. 1981, p. 240; June 15, 1984, No. 4964, § 1(b), Sess. L. 1984, p. 177; amended Jan. 26, 2016, No. 7826, § 1(d)(1)-(4), Sess. L. 2015, p. 231, 232.

Registration of Firearms

Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 473. Firearms Register

(a) The Commissioner shall establish a Firearms Register within the Department and maintain the same in a systematic and orderly manner, so that the names of the persons licensed as dealers in firearms, gunsmiths or to carry firearms in the Virgin Islands as well as the essential details concerning the firearms registered, may be easily found.

(b) Every firearm authorized to be licensed under section 454 which is duly licensed after this chapter takes effect, shall be registered in the Firearms Register provided for in the preceding subsection. If such firearm does not bear a serial number, or if the same is illegible, a nongovernmental licensee shall have his full name engraved on the butt or the stock of the weapon, and shall so set forth in his declaration. The Commissioner shall deliver to the declarant a record of such registration.

(c) The firearms authorized to be had, possessed, or carried under paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a) of section 453 and under subparagraph (1) of section 454 of this chapter, shall also be registered in the Firearms Register above provided for.

History: --Added July 11, 1968, No. 2279, § 1, Sess. L. 1968, Pt. II, p. 209.

Non-Resident Permits

The U.S. Virgin Islands does not issue Permit/Licenses to non-residents to carry concealed firearms.

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 459a. Relinquishment of Firearm

A person who has been issued a license to carry a firearm under this chapter shall relinquish that firearm as directed to enter into any federal government or Government of the Virgin Islands facility. A conviction for violation of this subsection subjects a person to the penalties set forth in section 484.

History: --Added Jan. 26, 2016, No. 7826, § 1(g), Sess. L. 2015, p. 233.

Note: I could find no other places listed as being off limits with a valid permit/license to carry. That does not mean there are not any places I just couldn't find any listed.

Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 489a. Safe Storage of Firearms; Penalties

(a) Every person who owns, possesses, purchases, or acquires a firearm, as that word is defined at Section 451(d) of this chapter, shall be responsible for the safe storage of the firearm.

(b) Any person who owns, possesses, purchases, or acquires a firearm, as that word is defined in section 451(d) of this chapter, whose failure to lock or safely store the firearm directly results in a person not licensed to own or possess the firearm to gain access thereto, and said unlicensed person injures or kills himself or another person with said firearm, may be, upon conviction, punished by a fine not to exceed \$ 2,500, imprisonment not to exceed two years, or both, and be subject to forfeiture of his license and firearm. This section shall not be construed as precluding the charge or conviction of any other appropriate violation of law.

(c) It is unlawful to leave a firearm in a motor vehicle unless it is stored in an approved vehicle firearm lockbox. A conviction for violation of this subsection subjects a person to the penalties set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) For purposes of this section, "safe storage" means the storage of a firearm in a locked manner so as to prevent discharge or the storage of a firearm in a safe location that is inaccessible to all except the licensed owner of the firearm. For purposes of this section a firearm is locked when the device installed on it or incorporated into its design is activated or set to prevent the firearm from being discharged.

History: --Added June 17, 2002, No. 6510, § 1, Sess. L. 2002, p. 297; amended Jan. 26, 2016, No. 7826, § 1(i), Sess. L. 2015, p. 233.

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

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

“??????”

We are unable to determine if “No Gun” signs have the force of law in U.S. Virgin Islands. Until we get more information Handgunlaw.us believes you should treat every “No Gun” sign on any private business as having the force of law.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

[Title 23 Chpt. 5 § 457. Contents of License](#)

(2) That the same is not transferable and shall be carried by the licensee at all times when in possession of the firearm for which it was issued;

Possessing Firearms/Ammunition in the U.S. Virgin

[Title 14 Chapter 113 § 2253. Carrying of Firearms; Openly or Concealed; Evidence of Intent to Commit Crime of Violence; Definitions](#)

(a) Whoever, unless otherwise authorized by law, has, possesses, bears, transports or carries either, actually or constructively, openly or concealed any firearm, as defined in Title 23, section 451(d) of this code, loaded or unloaded, may be arrested without a warrant, and shall be sentenced to imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than five years and shall be fined not less than \$ 5,000 nor more than \$ 15,000 or both the fine and imprisonment, except that if such person shall have been convicted of a felony in any state, territory, or federal court of the United States, or if such firearm or an imitation thereof was had, possessed, borne, transported or carried by or under the proximate control of such person during the commission or attempted commission of a crime of violence, as defined in subsection (d) hereof, then such person shall be fined \$ 25,000 and imprisoned not less than fifteen (15) years nor more than twenty (20) years. The foregoing applicable penalties provided for violation of this section shall be in addition to the penalty provided for the commission of, or attempt to commit, the felony or crime of violence. ... 158; amended Oct. 15, 2013, No. 7520, § 1(1)-(4), Sess. L. 2013, p. 122.

[Title 23 Chapter 5 § 489. Registration of Firearms upon Purchase from Dealer; Registration of Firearms Transferred From Non-Dealer](#)

(a) At the time that any firearm is purchased from a licensed firearms dealer, the dealer and the purchaser shall complete such registration documents as required by the Commissioner of Police before the firearm may be removed from the premises. The firearms dealer shall forward said documents to the Firearms Division of the Police Department by the end of the next business day.

(b) Any person other than a firearms dealer wishing to transfer a firearm to another person shall effect the

transfer at the Firearms Division of the Virgin Islands Police Department or at the place of business of a licensed firearms dealer within the Virgin Islands. Both individuals involved in the transfer must present the appropriate firearm licenses to the Firearms Division or the firearms dealer before such transfer may be effected. A record of transfer, as provided by the Virgin Islands Police Department, shall be completed at the time of transfer, and no transfer of a firearm shall be valid absent the completion of registration and transfer documents as required by this section. The firearms dealer shall forward said documents to the Firearms Division of the Police Department by the end of the next business day.

(c) The completion of registration and transfer documents as required by this section shall constitute compliance with the requirements of Section 470, subsection (a) of this chapter. Added Nov. 22, 1996, No. 6123, § 3, Sess. L. 1996, p. 121.

Title 14 Chapter 113 § 2256. Possession or Sale of Ammunition

(b) Any person who, unless authorized by law **possesses, sells, purchases, manufactures**, advertises for sale, or uses armor piercing or exploding ammunition for use in a firearm shall be guilty of a felony and shall be fined not less than \$ 15,000 and imprisoned not less than fifteen years. . . . § 1, Sess. L. 2010, p. 114.

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: Unknown

State/National Forests: Unknown

State WMA's: Unknown

Road Side Rest Areas: Unknown

RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

It is illegal to even possess a firearm in the U.S. Virgin Islands without registering it and obtaining a Permit/License to own it. Carrying a loaded firearm in any vehicle in the U.S. Virgin Islands is illegal without a permit from the US Virgin Islands. You must be a resident to obtain a permit to carry. LEOSA does apply in the US Virgin Islands.

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Handgunlaw.us can find no information about Open Carry in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Handgunlaw.us recommends that you consider the Open Carrying of a firearm as illegal until more information becomes available.

State Preemption

No Preemption law in their code.

Deadly Force Laws

Chapter 1. General Provisions

§ 41. Resistance by party to be injured

www.handgunlaw.us

§ 42. Resistance by other parties

§ 43. Self-defense

§ 44. Justifiable Use of Force

Knife Laws State/Cities

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

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

NO ? (This comes from people I have talked to in the Virgin Islands. I can't find anything in VI Law that states this is a no carry zone.)

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

Note: Possession of Electric Stun Devices is now legal in the US Virgin Islands. You must be licensed and given training by the Police. Check with your local Police for details.

[Title 14 Chapter 113 § 2251](#). Carrying or Using Dangerous Weapons

(a) Whoever--

(1) has, possesses, bears, transports, carries or has under his proximate control any instrument or weapon of the kind commonly known as a blackjack, billy, sandclub, metal knuckles, bludgeon, switchblade knife or gravity knife; or

(2) with intent to use the same unlawfully against another, has, possesses, bears, transports, carries or has under his proximate control, a dagger, dirk, dangerous knife, razor, stiletto, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon shall--

(A) be fined \$ 5,000 and imprisoned not more than five (5) years; or

(B) if he has previously been convicted of a felony, or has, possesses, bears, transports, carries or has under his proximate control, any such weapon during the commission or attempted commission of a crime of violence (as defined in section 2253(d)(1) hereof) shall be fined \$ 10,000 and imprisoned not more than fifteen (15) years, which penalty shall be in addition to the penalty provided for the commission of, or attempt to commit, the crime of violence.

(b) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the term "switchblade knife" means any knife which has a blade which opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife; and the term "gravity knife" means any knife which has a blade which is released from the

handle or sheath thereof by the force of gravity or the application of centrifugal force which, when released, is locked in place by means of a button, spring, lever or other device.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, nothing contained herein shall prohibit the use of electric weapons or devices by peace officers in the conduct of their lawful duties, or persons licensed to carry an electric weapon or device. The Virgin Islands Police Department and Virgin Islands Department of Justice shall jointly promulgate regulations and establish policies pertaining to the use of licensing of electric weapons and devices.

LEOSA State Information

[LEOSA Info \(Letter from VI Police Commissioner\)](#)

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

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

Handgunlaw.us can find no AG Opinions or Court Cases concerning the carrying of firearms. This does not mean there are no AG Opinions or Court Cases. We could just not find any.

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Airport Carry: NO

Training Valid for: N/A

Time Period to Establish Residency: Unknown

Minimum Age for Permit/License: Unknown

Permit/License Info Public Information: Unknown

State Fire arm Laws: 14-113-2251 thru 14-113-2257 & 23-5-451 thru 23-5-489a

State Deadly Force Laws: 14-13-293 & 14-45-927

State Knife Laws: 14-113-2251

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: 14-113-2251

Body Armor Laws: No laws found.

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? NO 23-5-454

Permit/License Image

No Image is available. Handgunlaw.us would like to have an image of a U.S. Virgin Islands Permit/License to carry and/or their Registration Card.

Notes

What Does U.S. Virgin Islands Consider A Loaded Firearm?

Handgunlaw.us could find no definition of what the U.S. Virgin Islands considered a loaded or unloaded firearm.

Note: With no definition on what the state considers a loaded firearm at the minimum I would have no cartridge in the firing chamber, cylinder, internal or attached magazine or attached to the firearm in any way.

State Emergency Powers

[Title 23 Chapter 19, Subchpt. I, 23 V.I.C. § 1522](#) (2017) **Authority of Governor for the attachment of articles and to order the closing of establishments**

Whenever the Governor orders part or all of the military forces of the Virgin Islands into Territorial Active Military Service under section 1519 he may, by written order--

- (1) Direct the Adjutant General or other appropriate authority to seize arms, ammunition, explosives, incendiary material, and any other property that may be required by the military forces.
- (2) Prohibit the sale, exchange, loan or donation, during the emergency of arms, ammunition, explosives, gasoline, incendiary material or alcoholic beverages, and the closing of any establishment in which any such property is found.
- (3) Declare a curfew, during such periods and with respect to such areas and persons as in his discretion the public safety requires.
- (4) Any other powers authorized by law.

Upon termination of the emergency, compensation shall be paid by the Government of the Virgin Islands for the loss, damage, or destruction of any private property taken for Government purposes during the emergency. **HISTORY:** --Added Feb. 8, 1973, No. 3363, § 1, Sess. L. 1972, p. 558.

Note: Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See [US Code 42-5207](#) for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

U.S. Virgin Islands 21 Y/O **Title 14 Chpt. [113 § 455](#). **Must have License to purchase, possess, transport and buy ammunition in the VI.****

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.

Some states (and counties) require Firearms Identification Cards, and/or registration.

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.

Updates to this Page

[Archive of Previous Updates](#) 4

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.

8/20/17 – All Links Checked.

9/10/17 – Emergency Powers Section Updated in Notes Section.