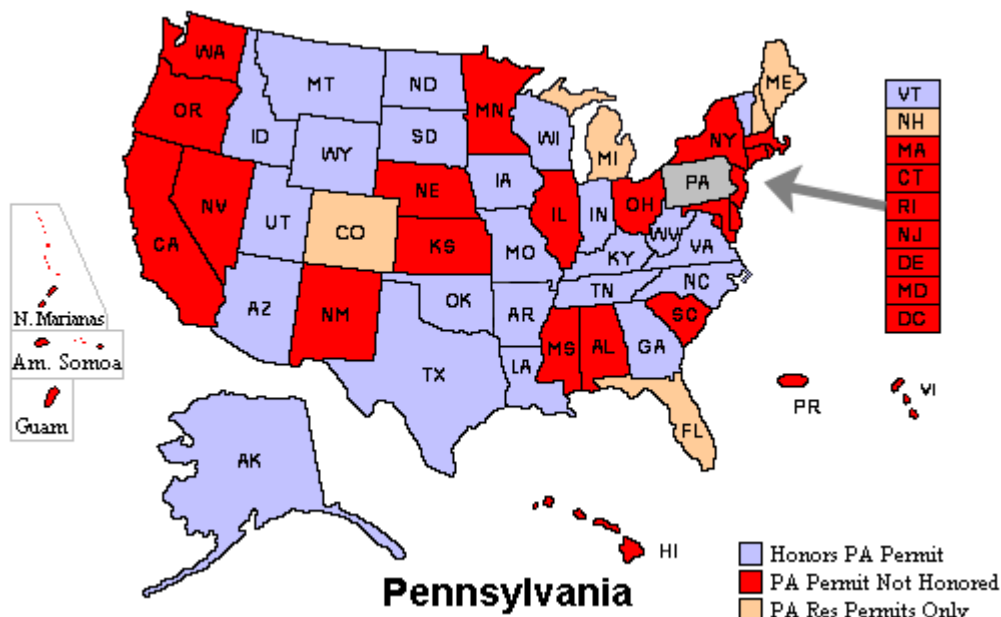


# Pennsylvania

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer: **NO**



## Links

[State CCW Site](#)

[Title 18 Gun Laws](#)

[CCW Application](#)

[Printable Application](#)

[State FAQ Site](#)

[State Statutes](#)

[State Admin Rules](#)

[State Reciprocity Info](#)

[State Attorney General](#)

[2<sup>nd</sup> CCW Info Site](#)

[Secretary of State](#)

Last Updated: 4/23/12

## Permits/Licenses This State Honors

Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	Colorado	Florida
Georgia	Idaho	Indiana	Iowa	Kentucky
Louisiana	Maine	Michigan	Missouri	Montana
New Hampshire	North Carolina	North Dakota	Oklahoma	South Dakota
Tennessee	Texas	Utah	Virginia	West Virginia
Wisconsin	Wyoming			

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

### How to Apply for A Permit

It is very simple to obtain a Pennsylvania Concealed Carry Permit/License. Just take your Pennsylvania Drivers License or State ID. Names, Addresses and Phone numbers of two references and your check book and go to the Sheriff's Office in the county you reside. Tell them you wish to apply for a Permit/License to Carry a Concealed Weapon. Fill out the application and pay the fee. PA Code 18 Pa.C.S. § 6109 states the total for all costs is to be \$20. The Sheriff has 45 days to issue the permit/license or deny it.

Your Permit/License is valid for 5 years.

**Note:** Some Sheriff's require another form of ID along with Drivers License. Some have Residency Requirement periods up to 90 days. Some require References to be residences of the county you apply in. Some have put other stipulations on issuing Licenses to Carry. Check with your local Sheriff's Office for more information.

### Non-Resident Permits

It is simple to get a PA Non-Resident Permit/License. Starting 3/31/11 PA will no longer issue by mail. You

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

have to make a trip to PA to apply. If they do not issue it to you in your short visit they will mail you the permit/license when it is approved.

**Completed and Signed Application must be accompanied by the following:**

1. A photo copy of a license to carry a firearm (concealed carry permit) from your home state if that state has a concealed carry law. If from IL you should bring your FOID Card.
2. A photo copy of your Driver's License.
3. Names, Addresses and Phone #'s of 2 references.
4. \$20.00 to \$24.00 fee for five year license and out of state processing.

**Note:** You have to have a permit from your home state if your home state issue permits. Unless you are from Illinois, DC or Vermont you have to have a permit from your home state. If your state is too restrictive and won't issue you a permit you can not obtain a Non-Resident Pennsylvania Permit/License. Some Sheriff's will not issue to non residents and/or have other stipulations to issue to non-residents. Check with the Sheriff's Dept before you appear to apply.

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

- Court Houses
- Elementary and Secondary Education Schools

**Title 18 Section 913 Possession of Firearm or Other Dangerous Weapon in Court Facility.**

(a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if he:

1. knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a court facility or knowingly causes a firearm or other dangerous weapon to be present in a court facility; or
2. knowingly possesses a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a court facility with the intent that the firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission of a crime or knowingly causes a firearm or other dangerous weapon to be present in a court facility with the intent that the firearm or other dangerous weapon be used in the commission of a crime.

**Title 18 § 912 Possession of Weapon on School Property.**

(a) Definition.--Notwithstanding the definition of "weapon" in section 907 (relating to possessing instruments of crime), "weapon" for purposes of this section shall include but not be limited to any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nun-chuck stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury.

(b) Offense defined.--A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he possesses a weapon in the buildings of, on the grounds of, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from any elementary or secondary publicly-funded educational institution, any elementary or secondary private school licensed by the Department of Education or any elementary or secondary parochial school.

(c) Defense.--It shall be a defense that the weapon is possessed and used in conjunction with a lawful supervised school activity or course or is possessed for other lawful purpose.

**§ 465.14. Firearms; Possession With in a Licensed Facility. (Casinos)**

(d) Each slot machine licensee shall cause to be posted in a conspicuous location at each entrance to the licensed facility signs that may be easily read stating: The possession by any person of any firearm or handgun within this licensed facility without the express written permission of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board is prohibited.

### **TITLE 18 Subchapter B**

#### **§ 5122. Weapons or Implements for Escape.**

##### **(a) Offenses Defined.—**

(1) A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he unlawfully introduces within a detention facility, correctional institution **or mental hospital**, or unlawfully provides an inmate thereof with any weapon, tool, implement, or other thing which may be used for escape.

**Note:** I can't find a definition of a Mental Hospital in PA law. Be aware that many hospitals may have a mental ward. Would it just be the mental ward or the whole hospital? Use caution.

#### **Title 61 § 5902 (e) Weapons in Detention Centers.**

No weapon or other implement which may be used to injure an inmate or person or in assisting an inmate to escape from imprisonment shall:

(1) be sold, given away or furnished to an inmate in any correctional institution or any building appurtenant thereto or on the land granted to or owned or leased by the Commonwealth for the use and benefit of inmates;

(2) be brought into any correctional institution or any building appurtenant thereto or on to the land granted to or owned or leased by the Commonwealth for the use and benefit of inmates

### **PA Admin Code Title 49 Chapter 61.**

#### **Use of Public Areas Outside the Capitol Complex—Statement of Policy**

##### **§ 61.1. Additional jurisdiction over properties.**

The public areas of One Penn Center, 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg, under the jurisdiction of the Department of State and subject to this chapter, include the interior offices of the Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation, State Athletic Commission and leased offices and facilities related thereto.

##### **§ 61.2. Office hours.**

Offices are open to the public for licensing and related business from the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding Saturdays, Sundays and State holidays. Hours in which the offices will be open to the public will be posted. The facilities may be closed during any of these periods upon a determination that an emergency or threat endangering the public health, safety and welfare exists.

##### **§ 61.3. Firearms and weapons.**

The possession of firearms or other prohibited offensive weapons as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 908(c) (relating to prohibited offense weapons), while on the leased premises of the Department with the exception of State or Federal officers, in connection with the performance of an official duty, is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to attorneys listed as counsel of record in connection with the offering of an exhibit in any

administrative proceeding, if the counsel of record who intends to offer the item as an exhibit, has obtained written authorization from a hearing examiner to do so.

[Title 34 § 2525](#) Valid 2/1/07. Persons hunting, including Archery Hunting, can carry a defensive handgun if licensed to do so by the state of PA or have a permit that PA Honors.

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

**"NO"**

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

"No Firearm" signs in Pennsylvania have no force of law unless they are posted on property that is specifically mentioned in State Law as being off limits to those with a Permit/License to Carry. If you are in a place not specifically mentioned in the law that is posted and they ask you to leave, you must leave. If you refuse to leave then you are breaking the law and can be charged. Even if the property is not posted and you are asked to leave you must leave. Always be aware of the possibility that responding Police Officers who may have been called without your knowledge and may not know the laws on trespass etc. could arrest you even if you are within the law.

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

### Carry Allowed in these Areas:

**State Parks: YES**

**State/National Forests: YES**

**WMA's: YES**

**Road Side Rest Areas: YES**

## RV/Car Carry Without A Permit/License

### From the PA State Police FAQ's.

#### Are there exceptions to carrying a firearm without a Pennsylvania License to Carry?

A License to Carry Firearms is issued to carry a firearm concealed on one's person or in a vehicle within this Commonwealth. Any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person except in his place of abode or fixed place of business without a valid and lawfully issued license commits a felony of the third degree.

A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

## **18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6106 Firearms not to be Carried Without a License**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license under this chapter commits a felony of the third degree.

(2) A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

**(b) Exceptions.**--The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to:

(11) Any person while carrying a firearm in any vehicle, which person possesses a valid and lawfully issued license for that firearm which has been issued under the laws of the United States or any other state.

(15) Any person who possesses a valid and lawfully issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the Commonwealth and the state under section 6109(k), provided:

(i) The state provides a reciprocal privilege for individuals licensed to carry firearms under section 6109.

(ii) The Attorney General has determined that the firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm laws of this Commonwealth.

**Note:** There is debate about having to unload when you exit the vehicle to go into a motel room or other place you have rented or a family member or friends personal property to spend the night.

### **Federal Law:**

#### **§ 926A. Interstate Transportation of Firearms**

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

## **State Preemption**

### **Title 18 § 6120. Limitation on the Regulation of Firearms and Ammunition.**

(a) General rule.--No county, municipality or township may in any manner regulate the lawful ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components when carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth.

(a.1) No right of action.

1. No political subdivision may bring or maintain an action at law or in equity against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer for damages, abatement, injunctive relief or any other relief or remedy resulting from or relating to either the lawful design or manufacture of firearms or ammunition or the lawful marketing or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public.

2. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a political subdivision from bringing or maintaining an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer or dealer for breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by the political subdivision.

## Deadly Force Laws

### Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Crimes and Offenses (TITLE 18)

#### Part I. Preliminary Provisions

#### Chapter 5. General Principles of Justification

§ 501. Definitions.

§ 502. Justification a defense.

§ 503. Justification generally.

§ 504. Execution of public duty.

§ 505. Use of force in self-protection.

§ 506. Use of force for the protection of other persons.

§ 507. Use of force for the protection of property.

§ 508. Use of force in law enforcement.

§ 509. Use of force by persons with special responsibility for care, discipline or safety of others.

§ 510. Justification in property crimes.

## 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, Chili’s or Red Lobster. 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

**Philadelphia - Ordinance. Statute 10-825** Stun Devices/Electric Weapons are illegal in Philadelphia.

## LEOSA State Information

### [Pennsylvania LEOSA Information](#)

## Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- [Pennsylvania State Police - Clarification of PA residents carrying on out of state permits](#)
- [Pennsylvania Supreme Ct Ruling on Preemption](#)

## Airport Carry/Misc. Information

**Airport Carry:** No state laws found.

**Training Valid for:** No set time period. No training required in PA.

**Time Period to Establish Residency:** Upon obtaining a Pennsylvania Drivers License/ID.

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

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

**State Fire arm Laws:** 18-6101 thru 18-6142

**State Deadly Force Laws:** 18-501 thru 18-510

**State Knife Laws:** C.S.A. 18.908. & 24 P.S. 13-1317.2

**Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws:** 18.907

**Body Armor Laws:** 19-.907c

**Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms?** NO § 6109.

**Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal?** Yes PA Hunting & Trapping Digest & PA Statutes Sec. 2525

## Notes

### What PA Considers A Loaded Firearm

#### [18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6102](#) Definitions

**"Loaded."** A firearm is loaded if the firing chamber, the nondetachable magazine or, in the case of a revolver, any of the chambers of the cylinder contain ammunition capable of being fired. In the case of a firearm which utilizes a detachable magazine, the term shall mean a magazine suitable for use in said firearm which magazine contains such ammunition and has been inserted in the firearm or is in the same container or, where the container has multiple compartments, the same compartment thereof as the firearm. If the magazine is inserted into a pouch, holder, holster or other protective device that provides for a

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complete and secure enclosure of the ammunition, then the pouch, holder, holster or other protective device shall be deemed to be a separate compartment.

## **State Emergency Powers**

### **§ 6107. Prohibited Conduct During Emergency. (Still looking for Governor Authority)**

**(a) General rule.**--No person shall carry a firearm upon the public streets or upon any public property during an emergency proclaimed by a State or municipal governmental executive unless that person is:

(1) Actively engaged in a defense of that person's life or property from peril or threat.

(2) Licensed to carry firearms under section 6109 (relating to licenses) or is exempt from licensing under

section 6106(b) (relating to firearms not to be carried without a license).

**(b) Seizure, taking and confiscation.**--Except as otherwise provided under subsection (a) and notwithstanding the provisions of 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 73 (relating to Commonwealth services) or any other provision of law to the contrary, no firearm, accessory or ammunition may be seized, taken or confiscated during an emergency unless the seizure, taking or confiscation would be authorized absent the emergency.

**(c) Definitions.**--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Accessory." Any scope, sight, bipod, sling, light, magazine, clip or other related item that is attached to or necessary for the operation of a firearm.

"Firearm." The term includes any weapon that is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame or receiver of any weapon.

(June 13, 1995, 1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1024, No.17, eff. 120 days;

Oct. 17, 2008, P.L.1628, No.131, eff. 60 days)

## **PA Administrative Code Title 4 Chapter 3**

### **§ 3.25. Specific Responsibilities.**

**(z) Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.** The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency shall have the following responsibilities:

**(3) Emergency response activities.** Emergency response activities shall include the following:

**(i)** Deploy emergency response team representatives to the Harrisburg and three Area Emergency Operations Centers of the Commonwealth, as requested by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, for the coordination of State Police emergency response activities.

**(ii)** Collect and report, to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, information on major or significant disaster effects and problems including, particularly, facts relating to human deaths and injuries, loss of electric power, highway traffic disruption, maintenance of law and order and unusual occurrences or dangers.

**(iii)** Collect and maintain, in disaster situations, official Statewide records of dead and missing persons, to include periodic reporting of summary statistics to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.



(iv) Supply, to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, as requested by means of the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network and other State Police facilities, assistance in the dissemination of essential disaster information and instructions.

(v) Supply, as requested, police assistance in State, county and local emergency operations.

(vi) Assist in the establishment and operation of emergency mortuary facilities and services including, particularly, aid in identification of the dead.

(vii) Implement, upon request, suspension of the sale of firearms, explosives and combustibles.

**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.

## Permit/License Image

This is the new format for all Resident and Non Resident Licenses that PA will Issue. The back of the License is Blank.

SP 4-129(1-2010)		<input type="checkbox"/> NEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RENEW	NO. 12-00000021					
PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARMS									
1. NAME(LAST)		(FIRST)		(MIDDLE)		(JR.,ETC.)			
SLIDER, GARY J									
2. ADDRESS									
455 MAPLE AVENUE, NEW MARTINSVILLE, WV 26155									
3. Point Of Contact Phone Number			4. DATE ISSUED		5. DATE EXPIRES				
1-304-266-0850			11/16/2010		11/16/2015				
(FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE ONLY)									
6. REASON TO CARRY		7. DOB		8. HGT		9. WGT		10. EYES	
Self Defense		11/16/1988		510		200		BLU	
11. HAIR		12. SEX		13. RACE		14. U.S. CITIZEN		15. COUNTY OF CITIZENSHIP	
BRN		M		W		Y		US	
16. IMMIGRATION ID NO. (IF APP)				17. SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE					
				Gary J. Slider					
18. SIG OF ISSUING AUTHORITY				19. SHERIFF OR CHIEF OF POLICE OF					
Staci A. Standiford				Butler					

This image has been digitally assembled from 2 or more images. It may not be 100% accurate but gives a good representation of the actual Permit/License.

## Updates to this Page

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

10/2/09 – Vermont added to list of states in Non Resident permit section that you don't have to have a permit from to get a PA Non Resident Permit.

11/12/09 – Places off Limits Updated. Carry in Airports Updated. PA Supreme Ct decision on Preemption added.

12/30/09 – Carry while hunting, Word Concealed Removed. Broken Link Repaired.

2/10/10 – LEOSA Link Repaired

3/15/10 – Broken Link Repaired.

7/6/10 – Broken Link Repaired.

8/11/10 – All Links Checked and repaired if necessary.

9/16/10 – RV/Car Carry Section Updated. Notes Sections Added. Definition of Loaded added to notes.

10/26/10 – Sec 11 added to car carry section.

1/1/11 – IA Now Honors PA. Notes Section Added. Permit/License Image Added.

3/14/11 – Detention Centers added as place Off Limits.

3/22/11 – PA will no longer allow Mail in Applications after 3/31/11. Must appear in person to apply.

4/5/11 – All Links Checked.

4/17/11 – Information about carrying while hunting added.

5/8/11 – PA Now Honors Iowa.

7/10/11 – Price of Permit Updated.

8/26/11 – New License Format Image Added.

9/9/11 – All Links Checked and repaired if Needed.

**11/1/11** – WI Added as State That Honors PA.

**11/8/11** – No Gun Sign Section changed from YES to NO.

**11/18/11** – Maine and Pennsylvania have signed a Reciprocity Agreement.

**1/20/12** – Res/Non Res Permit Sections Updated with additional Info Sheriffs may want in application process. Notes Section  
What PA Considers Loaded definition expanded.

**3/2/12** – Broken Links Repaired. All Links Checked.

**3/9/12** - Emergency Powers Law added to Notes Section.

**3/17/12** – Addition to Emergency Powers Added.

**4/23/12** – Mental Hospitals Added to Places Off Limits. Capitol Complex Off Limits Reg Added.