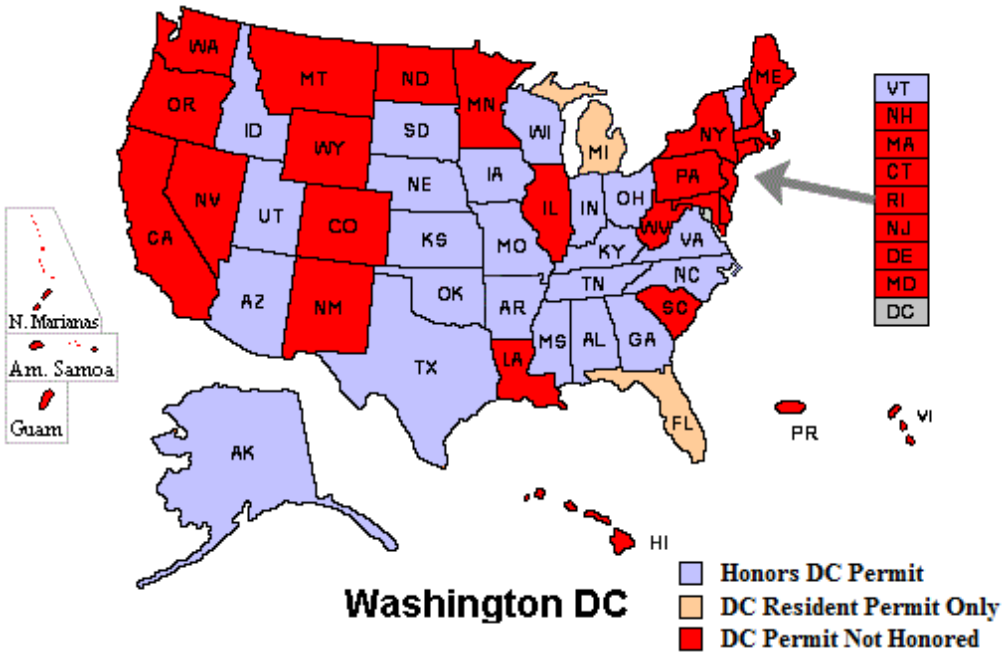
Washington DC

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer Immediately: YES

(See Must Inform Section)



Note: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming have "Permitless Carry" Anyone who can legally possess a firearm under state and federal law may carry in these states without a Permit. Check each states page for age or other restrictions that may apply.

DC CCW Links

DC CCW Site

CCW Application

Renew Application
Word Document

How to Apply

Transporting Firearms

Mace/Stun Gun Info

Firearm Laws Title 22 Subtitle VI Chapter 45

DC Certified Instructors
Scroll Down

DC Code

DC Admin Rules

Firearms Registration Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt 25

Firearms Registration

DC Attorney General

Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

Last Updated: 9/5/2026

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

DC does not honor any other states permit/license.

Note: DC has moved its Laws to LexisNexis and there are no direct links to any of their laws.

How to Apply for a Permit – Registration of All Firearms

NOTICE: The Metro Police has announced that the process time to obtain a License to Carry has been reduced from months to 4 to 5 days once you have the training and other documents needed to apply. Check with the DC Metro Police for more Info.

The **DC Metro Police** have posted Instructions on **How to Apply** and an **Application** that can be printed. The How to Apply document is very wordy but you need to read all of it before applying. Training can be delayed and you can be preapproved without the training if you obtain it within 45 days of preapproval. Cost for the License is $75.00. Payment Information and Fees for MPD Services can be viewed **Here.** A list of trainers can be found using the Link in the Links Section Above.

(More information from the Metropolitan Police on applying Here)

DC Admin Code 24-2332.1

A person is eligible for issuance of a license to carry a concealed pistol (concealed carry license) only if the person:

(a) Is at least 21 years of age;

(b) Meets all of the requirements for a person registering a firearm pursuant to the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (the Act), effective September 24, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-85; D.C. Official Code § 7-2501.01 *et seq*. (2012 Repl. & 2014 Supp.));

(c) Possesses a pistol registered pursuant to the Act;

(d) Does not currently suffer nor has suffered in the previous five (5) years from any mental illness or condition that creates a substantial risk that he or she is a danger to himself or herself or others; provided that if the person no longer suffers such mental illness or condition, and that person has provided satisfactory documentation required under § 2337.3, then the Chief may determine that this requirement has been met;

(e) Has completed a firearms training course, or combination of courses, conducted by an instructor (or instructors) certified by the Chief;

(f) Has a bona fide residence or place of business:

(1) Within the District of Columbia;

(2) Within the United States and a license to carry a pistol concealed upon his or her person issued by the lawful authorities of any State or subdivision of the United States; or

(3) Within the United States and meets all registration and licensing requirements pursuant to the Act;

(h) Is a suitable person to be so licensed.

Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 9784 (July 17, 2015).

Registration of Firearms

(Scroll Down)

Firearm's Registration Requirements (Scroll Down)

Firearm's Registration Form

Note: Firearms in DC must be registered. Residents of DC would already have their firearm registered. Non-Residents who wish to obtain a DC License to Carry have to register any firearms they plan on carrying in DC. More information can be found at the links above and **Here**.

Non-Resident Permits

DC Admin Code 24-2345 Non-Resident Applications for Concealed Carry License

2345.1 A non-resident of the District, as defined by the Act, may apply to the Firearms Registration Section for a concealed carry license upon a showing that the applicant meets all of the eligibility requirements of **§ 2332.**

2345.2 A non-resident may satisfy some or all of the firearms training requirements in § 2336 by providing proof of completion of a firearms training course in another state or subdivision of the United States.

2345.3 A non-resident shall obtain a certification from a firearms trainer that the applicant has received and completed training in District firearms law and the District law of self-defense.

All The Above 9781 9793 (July 17, 2015).

Places Off-Limits Even With A Permit/License

2343.2 A person issued a concealed carry license by the Chief may not carry any restricted pistol bullet as that term is defined in the Act. 62 DCR 9781 9793 (July 17, 2015).

DC Admin Code 24-2344. Pistol Carry Methods.

2344.1 A licensee shall carry any pistol in a manner that it is entirely hidden from view of the public when carried on or about a person, or when in a vehicle in such a way as it is entirely hidden from view of the public. 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

2344.2 A licensee shall carry any pistol in a holster on their person in a firmly secure manner that is reasonably de-signed to prevent loss, theft, or accidental discharge of the pistol. 62 DCR, 9793 (July 17, 2015)

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2509.06. Carrying a Pistol While Impaired.

(a) A licensee shall not carry a pistol while he or she is consuming alcohol.

(b) A licensee shall not carry a pistol while impaired.

(c) Upon establishing reasonable suspicion that a licensee has been consuming drugs or alcohol, a licensee's failure to submit to one or more field sobriety, breathalyzer, or urine tests, administered to determine whether the licensee is impaired while carrying a pistol, shall be grounds for summary suspension of the license pursuant to § 7-2509.05(b)

(d) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who violates this section shall be subject to revocation of his or her license.

(e) For the purposes of this section, the term "impaired" means a licensee has consumed alcohol or other drug or drugs and that it has affected the persons behavior in a way that can be perceived or noticed.
June 8, 2024, D.C. Law 25-175, § 15(d), 71 DCR 2732

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2509.07. Prohibitions on Carrying Licensed Pistols.

(a) No person holding a license shall carry a pistol in the following locations or under the following circumstances:

(1) A building or office occupied by the District of Columbia, its agencies, or instrumentalities;

(2) The building and grounds, including any adjacent parking lot, of any childcare facility, preschool, public or private elementary or secondary school; or a public or private college or university;
Note: see Section **(d)(2)** Below on dropping off Children.

(3) A hospital, or an office where medical or mental health services are the primary services provided;

(4) A penal institution, secure juvenile residential facility, or halfway house;

(5) A polling place while voting is occurring;

(6) A public transportation vehicle, including the Metrorail transit system and its stations;

(7) Any premises, or portion thereof, where alcohol is served, or sold and consumed on the premises, pursuant to a license issued under Title 25; provided, that this prohibition shall not apply to premises operating under a temporary license issued pursuant to § 25-115, a C/R, D/R, C/H, D/H or caterer license issued pursuant to § 25-113, or premises with small-sample tasting permits issued pursuant to § 25-118, unless otherwise prohibited pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of this section;

(8) A stadium or arena;

(9) A gathering or special event open to the public; provided, that no licensee shall be criminally prosecuted unless:

(A) The organizer or the District has provided notice prohibiting the carrying of pistols in advance of the gathering or special event and by posted signage at the gathering or special event; or

(B) The licensee has been ordered by a law enforcement officer to leave the area of the gathering or special event and the licensee has not complied with the order;

(10) The public memorials on the National Mall and along the Tidal Basin, and any area where firearms are prohibited under federal law or by a federal agency or entity, including U.S. Capitol buildings and grounds;

(11) The White House Complex and its grounds up to and including to the curb of the adjacent sidewalks touching the roadways of the area bounded by Constitution Avenue, N.W., 15th Street, N.W., H Street, N.W., and 17th Street, N.W.;

(12) The U.S. Naval Observatory and its fence line, including the area from the perimeter of its fence up to and including to the curb of the adjacent sidewalks touching the roadway of Observatory Circle, from Calvert Street, N.W., to Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., and around Observatory Circle to the far corner of Observatory Lane;

(13)(A) When a dignitary or high-ranking official of the United States or a state, local, or foreign government is moving under the protection of the MPD, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Capitol Police, or other law enforcement agency assisting or working in concert with MPD, within an area designated by the Chief, the Chief of the U.S. Secret Service, or the Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police, or a designee of any of the foregoing, that does not include any point at a distance greater than 1,000 feet from the moving dignitary or high-ranking official; provided, that no licensee shall be criminally prosecuted unless:

(i) The law enforcement agency provides notice of the designated area by the presence of signs, law enforcement vehicles or officers acting as a perimeter, or other means to make the designated area of protection obvious;

(ii) The District or federal government has provided notice prohibiting the carrying of pistols along a designated route or in a designated area in advance of the event, if possible, and by posted signage along a route or in a designated area; or

(iii) The licensee has been ordered by a law enforcement officer to leave the designated area and the licensee has not complied with the order.

(B) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term moving shall include any planned or unplanned stops, including temporary stops, in locations open to the public.

(14) When demonstration in a public place is occurring, within an area designated by the Chief or his or her designee, or other law enforcement agency, that does not include any point at a distance greater than 1,000 feet from the demonstration; provided, that no licensee shall be criminally prosecuted unless:

(A) The law enforcement agency provides notice of the designated area by the presence of signs, law enforcement vehicles or officers acting as a perimeter, or other means to make the designated area of the demonstration obvious;

(B) The District or federal government has provided notice prohibiting the carrying of pistols along or within a demonstration route or designated area in advance of the event, if possible, and by posted signage along a demonstration route or designated area; or

(C) The licensee has been ordered by a law enforcement officer to leave the designated area and the licensee has not complied with the order; or

(15) Any prohibited location or circumstance that the Chief determines by rule; provided, that for spontaneous circumstances, no criminal penalty shall apply unless the licensee has notice of the prohibition and has failed to comply.

(b) Except to the extent of any inconsistency with 18 U.S.C. §§ 926B and 926C, the carrying of a concealed pistol:

(1) On private residential property shall be presumed to be prohibited unless otherwise authorized by the property owner or person in control of the premises and communicated personally to the licensee in advance of entry onto the residential property;

(2) In a church, synagogue, mosque, or other place where people regularly assemble for religious worship shall be presumed to be prohibited unless the property is posted with conspicuous signage allowing the carrying of a concealed pistol, or the owner or authorized agent communicates allowance personally to the licensee in advance of entry onto the property; provided, that such places may not authorize the carrying of a concealed pistol where services are conducted in locations listed in subsection (a) of this section; and

(3) On private property that is not a residence shall be presumed to be permitted unless the property is posted with conspicuous signage prohibiting the carrying of a concealed pistol, or the owner or authorized agent communicates such prohibition personally to the licensee.

(c) Whenever a licensee carries a concealed pistol and approaches any prohibited location, or is subject to any prohibited circumstance, under subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the licensee shall:

(1) If the licensee is in a vehicle or if a vehicle is readily available, immediately secure the pistol in the manner prescribed in § 22-4504.02(b); or

(2) If the licensee does not have a vehicle available, immediately leave the prohibited location or circumstance.

(d) A licensee shall not be in violation of this section:

(1) While he or she is traveling along a public sidewalk that touches the perimeter of any of the premises where the carrying of a concealed pistol is prohibited under subsection (a) and subsection (b) of this section, except for the areas designated in subsection (a)(11) and (a)(12), or along a public street, roadway, or highway if the concealed pistol is carried on his or her person in accordance with this unit, or is being transported by the licensee in accordance with § 22-4504.02; or

(2) While driving a vehicle into and immediately parking at any location listed in subsection **(a)(2)** of this section for the purpose of picking up or dropping off a student or a child; provided, that the licensee shall secure the concealed pistol in accordance with § 22-4504.02(b), before leaving the parked vehicle.

(e) A licensee shall not carry a pistol openly or otherwise in a manner that is not concealed.

(f) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who violates this section shall be subject to revocation of his or her license.

(g) For the purposes of this section, the term:

(1) Demonstration means one or more persons demonstrating, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding a vigil, or engaging in any other similar conduct that involves the communication or expression of views or grievances and that has the effect, intent, or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers. The term demonstration does not include the casual use of property by visitors or tourists that does not have the effect, intent, or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.

(2) Public place means a place to which the general public has access and a right to occupy for business, entertainment, or other lawful purpose. The term public place is not limited to a place devoted solely to the uses of the public, and includes:

(A) The front or immediate area or parking lot of a store, restaurant, tavern, shopping center, or other place of business;

(B) A public building, including its grounds and curtilage;

(C) A public parking lot;

(D) A public street, sidewalk, or right-of-way;

(E) A public park; and

(F) Other public grounds.

(3) Public transportation vehicle means any publicly owned or operated commercial vehicle, including any DC Circulator bus, DC Streetcar, MetroAccess vehicle, Metrobus, or Metrorail train.

(4) Residence means a building wholly or partly used or intended to be used for living and sleeping by human occupants, together with any fences, walls, sheds, garages, or other accessory buildings appurtenant to the building, and the area of land surrounding the building and actually or by legal construction forming one enclosure in which such a building is located, but does not include adjacent common areas or commercial property contained in any part of the building.

Apr. 21, 2023, D.C. Law 24-347, § 2(l), 70 DCR 928.)

Title 22 Subtitle VI Chpt. 45 § 22-4504.01. Authority to Carry Firearm in Certain Places and for Certain Purposes.

Notwithstanding any other law, a person holding a **valid registration** for a firearm may carry the firearm:

(1) Within the registrant's home;
(2) While it is being used for lawful recreational purposes;
(3) While it is kept at the registrant's place of business; or
(4) While it is being transported for a lawful purpose as expressly authorized by District or federal statute and in accordance with the requirements of that statute. History May 20, 2009, D.C. Law 17-388, § 2(d), 56 DCR 1162.)

Title 22 Subtitle VI Chpt. 45 § 22-4503.02. Prohibition of Firearms From Public or Private Property.

(a) The District of Columbia may prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on its property and any property under its control.

(b) Private persons or entities owning property in the District of Columbia may prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on their property; provided, that this subsection shall not apply to law enforcement personnel when lawfully authorized to enter onto private property. May 20, 2009, D.C. Law 17-388, § 2(b), 56 DCR 1162.)

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2501.01. Definitions

(2) "Ammunition" means cartridge cases, shells, projectiles (including shot), primers, bullets (including restricted pistol bullets), propellant powder, or other devices or materials designed, redesigned, or intended for use in a firearm or destructive device. Apr. 21, 2023, D.C. Law 24-347, § 2(a), 70 DCR 928.)

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2506.01. Persons Permitted to Possess Ammunition

(a) No person shall possess ammunition in the District of Columbia unless:

(1) He is a licensed dealer pursuant to subchapter IV of this unit;

(2) He is an officer, agent, or employee of the District of Columbia or the United States of America, on duty and acting within the scope of his duties when possessing such ammunition;

(3) He is the holder of a valid registration certificate for a firearm pursuant to subchapter II of this chapter; except, that no such person shall possess restricted pistol bullets;

(4) He holds an ammunition collector's certificate on September 24, 1976; or

(5) He temporarily possesses ammunition while participating in a firearms training and safety class conducted by a firearms instructor. June 8, 2024, D.C. Law 25-175, § 15(b), 71 DCR 2732

DC Admin Code 24-2344.1 A licensee shall carry any pistol in a manner that it is entirely hidden from view of the public when carried on or about a person, or when in a vehicle in such a way as it is entirely hidden from view of the public. Source: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

DC Admin Code 24-2344.2 A person issued a concealed carry license by the Chief shall carry any pistol in a holster on their person in a firmly secure manner that is reasonably designed to prevent loss, theft, or accidental discharge of the pistol. Source: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

Note: Unless you have a firearm registered in DC and that registration card for a firearm do not have a empty/fired cartridge case, bullets not loaded in a case, primers, powder etc. in your vehicle that is not stored so it can't be accessed by the driver or any passenger. Any of those components are considered ammunition.

Note: If you interrupt your trip while inside DC while transporting firearms other than to stop and get gas or similar stop you are no longer covered by Federal Law (Title 18 Part 1 Chapter 44 **§ 926A)** but fall under DC law. **§ 926A** doesn't cover you when you stop to sight see, spend the night or other recreation activities and you can be arrested and your firearms Confiscated if you do not have a valid Permit/License Issued by DC.

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the **USA Page**.

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

"YES"

DC Admin Code 24-2346 Signage to Prevent Entrance by Concealed Carry Licensee Onto Non Residential Private Property

2346.1 Signs stating that the carrying of firearms is prohibited on any private property shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at any entrance, open to the public, of a building, premises, or real property. Source: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

2346.2 A sign shall be considered conspicuous if it is at least eight (8) inches by ten (10) inches in size and contains writing in contrasting ink using not less than thirty-six (36) point type. Source: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

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

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2509.07. Prohibitions on Carrying Licensed Pistols.

(c) Whenever a licensee carries a concealed pistol and approaches any prohibited location, or is subject to any prohibited circumstance, under subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the licensee shall:

(1) If the licensee is in a vehicle or if a vehicle is readily available, immediately secure the pistol in the manner prescribed in § 22-4504.02(b); or

(2) If the licensee does not have a vehicle available, immediately leave the prohibited location or circumstance. Apr. 21, 2023, D.C. Law 24-347, § 2(l), 70 DCR 928.)

Title 22 Subtitle VI Chpt. 45 § 22-4504.02. Transportation of Firearms.

(a) A person may not transport a firearm unless the person:

(1) Is not otherwise prohibited by law from transporting, shipping, or receiving the firearm;

(2) Is transporting the firearm for a lawful purpose from a place where the person may lawfully possess and carry the firearm to another place where the person may lawfully possess and carry the firearm; and

(3) Transports the firearm in accordance with this section.

(b)(1) If the transportation of the firearm is by a vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the transporting vehicle.

(2) If the transporting vehicle does not have 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, and the firearm shall be unloaded.

(c) If the transportation of the firearm is in a manner other than in a vehicle, the firearm shall be:

(1) Unloaded;

(2) Inside a locked container; and

(3) Separate from any ammunition.

(d) The requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to a person who has a license to carry a pistol concealed upon their person pursuant to § 22-4506 and who is transporting the firearm concealed upon their person.

(e) The requirements of subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to a person who has a license to carry a pistol concealed upon their person pursuant to § 22-4506 and who is transporting the firearm concealed upon their person.

(f) Prosecutions for violations of this section shall be brought by the Attorney General for the District of Columbia in the name of the District of Columbia. D.C. Law Apr. 21, 2023, D.C. Law 24-347, § 3(b), 70 DCR 928

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2509.07 Prohibitions on Carrying Licensed Pistols.

(g)(2) "**Public Place**" means a place to which the general public has access and a right to occupy for business, entertainment, or other lawful purpose. The term "**public place**" is not limited to a place devoted solely to the uses of the public, and includes:

(A) The front or immediate area or parking lot of a store, restaurant, tavern, shopping center, or other place of business;

(B) A public building, including its grounds and curtilage;

(C) A public parking lot;

(D) A public street, sidewalk, or right-of-way;

(E) A public park; and

(F) Other public grounds.

(3) "Public transportation vehicle" means any publicly owned or operated commercial vehicle, including any DC Circulator bus, DC Streetcar, MetroAccess vehicle, Metrobus, or Metrorail train.

(4) "Residence" means a building wholly or partly used or intended to be used for living and sleeping by human occupants, together with any fences, walls, sheds, garages, or other accessory buildings appurtenant to the building, and the area of land surrounding the building and actually or by legal construction forming one enclosure in which such a building is located, but does not include adjacent common areas or commercial property contained in any part of the building.

Apr. 21, 2023, D.C. Law 24-347, § 2(l), 70 DCR 928.

Note: Parking lots except for schools/colleges as above are not listed as being off limits. The new law also describes "Public Places." You would be able to visit places as listed as being off limits and park in a public or their parking lot if not posted and leave your unloaded and secured firearm in your vehicle.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

"YES"

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2509.04. Duties of Licensees.

(c) A licensee shall have on or about his or her person each time the pistol is carried in the District:

(1) The license; and

(2) The registration certificate for the pistol being carried, issued pursuant to this act.

(d) If a law enforcement officer initiates an investigative stop of a licensee carrying a concealed pistol pursuant to § 22-4506, the licensee, and any other licensee carrying a concealed pistol pursuant to § 22-4506 who is with the stopped licensee at the time of the investigative stop, shall:

(1) Disclose to the officer that he or she is carrying a concealed pistol;

(2) Present the license and registration certificate;

(3) Identify the location of the concealed pistol; and

(4) Comply with all lawful orders and directions from the officer, including allowing a pat down of his or her person and permitting the law enforcement officer to take possession of the pistol for so long as is necessary for the safety of the officer or the public.

(e) The duties set forth in this section are in addition to any other requirements imposed by this act or applicable law.

(f) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person who violates this section shall be subject to revocation of his or her license.

June 16, 2015, D.C. Law 20-279, § 2(f), 62 DCR 1944.

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: ?

State/National Forests: ?

WMA: ?

Road Side Rest Areas: ?

RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

You can't carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle in the DC without a permit to carry issued by DC.

Title 22 Subtitle VI Chpt. 45 § 22-4504.02. Transportation of Firearms.

(a) A person may not transport a firearm unless the person:

(1) Is not otherwise prohibited by law from transporting, shipping, or receiving the firearm;

(2) Is transporting the firearm for a lawful purpose from a place where the person may lawfully possess and carry the firearm to another place where the person may lawfully possess and carry the firearm; and

(3) Transports the firearm in accordance with this section.

(b)(1) If the transportation of the firearm is by a vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the transporting vehicle.

(2) If the transporting vehicle does not have 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, and the firearm shall be unloaded.

(c) If the transportation of the firearm is in a manner other than in a vehicle, the firearm shall be:

(1) Unloaded;

(2) Inside a locked container; and

(3) Separate from any ammunition.

(d) The requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to a person who has a license to carry a pistol concealed upon their person pursuant to § 22-4506 and who is transporting the firearm concealed upon their person.

(e) The requirements of subsection (c) of this section shall not apply to a person who has a license to carry a pistol concealed upon their person pursuant to § 22-4506 and who is transporting the firearm concealed upon their person.

(f) Prosecutions for violations of this section shall be brought by the Attorney General for the District of Columbia in the name of the District of Columbia. D.C. Law Apr. 21, 2023, D.C. Law 24-347, § 3(b), 70 DCR 928

Note: This is for transporting firearms through DC but if you are traveling and going through DC it is actually out of your way in most instances. I would not travel inside the Beltway around DC. The beltway is outside DC and is actually in the surrounding states but is a good boundary marker to keep from going into the District. If you stop in DC other than to get gas or maybe an emergency while transporting firearms you are no longer covered by Federal Law (Title 18 Part 1 Chapter 44 **§ 926A)** but fall under DC law and can be arrested and your firearms Confiscated.

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Open Carry is Illegal in DC even with a permit they issue.

DC Admin Code 24-2344. Pistol Carry Methods.

2344.1 A licensee shall carry any pistol in a manner that it is entirely hidden from view of the public when carried on or about a person, or when in a vehicle in such a way as it is entirely hidden from view of the public. Source: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 9781 (July 17, 2015).

State Preemption

No Preemption Law. DC is a city unto itself and therefore city laws (Plus Federal Regulations) cover the entire district.

Deadly Force Laws

Instructions to Trainers Concerning Law of Self Defense.
The above is information given to DC Firearms Instructions on Self-Defense Laws in DC.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

"YES" **D.C. Code § 7-2509.07**

DC law state you can't carry in a place that serves alcohol but gives exemptions to places that hold a Class C/R or D/R license. These are restaurant licenses for food and Beverages with Spirits, Beer and Wine allowed for sale on the premises for consumption. So carry in places like Red Lobster, Chili's, Fridays and even Hotels that have a Restaurant/Bar in the Hotel is legal in the District of Columbia as the law exempts these locations. DC forbids a licensed carrier from consuming or being under the influence when carrying. DC explains the different types of licenses for each establishment that sell alcohol for consumption on the premises. **here**

D.C. Law 24-347, § 2(l), 70 DCR 928

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

D.C. Official Code § 7-2506.01 Magazine Ban

(b) No person in the District shall knowingly possess, sell, or transfer any ammunition feeding device that is, in fact, a large capacity ammunition feeding device regardless of whether the device is attached to a firearm.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the term "large capacity ammunition feeding device" means a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition. The term "large capacity ammunition feeding device" shall not include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

June 8, 2024, D.C. Law 25-175, § 15(b), 71 DCR 2732.)

§ 7-2502.13 Possession of Self-Defense Sprays

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 7-2501.01(7)(C), a person may possess and use a self-defense spray in the exercise of reasonable force in defense of the person or the person's property only if it is propelled from an aerosol container, labeled with or accompanied by clearly written instructions as to its use, and dated to indicate its anticipated useful life.

(b) No person shall possess a self-defense spray which is of a type other than that specified in §§7 2502.12 to 7-2502.14. D.C. Law 21-281, § 2(b), 64 DCR 1648

Chemical Sprays are Legal. Below from the DC Metro Police

Self-defense spray - means a mixture of a lacrimator including chloroacetophenone, alphacloracetophenone phenylchloromethylketone, orthochlorobenazalm-alononitrile or oleoresin capsicum.

It is legal to possess self-defense sprays in the District of Columbia, such as mace or pepper spray. However, under D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.12, the only legal types of self-defense sprays are "a mixture of a lacrimator including chloroacetophenone, alphacloroacetophenone, phenylchloromethylketone, orthochloriobenazaim-alononitrile or oleoresin capsicum." Additionally, the self-defense spray must be propelled from an aerosol container, labeled with clearly written instructions for use, and dated with its anticipated useful life. A person may use a self-defense spray only as reasonable force to defend themselves or their property and only if the self-defense sprays meets the requirements above.

Stun Guns Legal. Below from the DC Metro Police (Scroll Down at Link)

A person 18 years or older may possess a stun gun in the District of Columbia; it may only be used to protect themselves or their property. No one other than a law enforcement officer is allowed to possess a stun gun in a building or office occupied by the District of Columbia government, a penal institution, secure juvenile residential facility, a halfway house, any building that is occupied by a children's facility, preschool, elementary or secondary school, any building or grounds in which the owner or occupant clearly posts forbidding the carrying of a stun gun.

Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2502.15. Possession of Stun Guns.

(a) No person under 18 years of age shall possess a stun gun in the District; provided, that brief \ possession for self-defense in response to an immediate threat of harm shall not be a violation of this subsection.

(b) No person who possesses a stun gun shall use that weapon except in the exercise of reasonable force in defense of person or property.

(c) Unless permission specific to the individual and occasion is given, no person, except a law enforcement officer as defined in section 901, shall possess a stun gun in the following locations:

(1) A building or office occupied by the District of Columbia government, its agencies, or instrumentalities;

(2) A penal institution, secure juvenile residential facility, or halfway house;

(3) A building or portion thereof, occupied by a children's facility, preschool, or public or private elementary or secondary school; or

(4) Any building or grounds clearly posted by the owner or occupant to prohibit the carrying of a stun gun. May 19, 2017, D.C. Law 21-281, § 2(d), 64 DCR 1648

D.C. Official Code § 7-2506.01 Persons Permitted to Possess Ammunition.

(b) No person in the District shall knowingly possess, sell, or transfer any ammunition feeding device that is, in fact, a large capacity ammunition feeding device regardless of whether the device is attached to a firearm.

(c) For the purposes of this section, the term "large capacity ammunition feeding device" means a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition. The term "large capacity ammunition feeding device" shall not include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition. June 8, 2024, D.C. Law 25-175, § 15(b), 71 DCR 2732.)

LEOSA State Information

DC LEOSA Information (Scroll Down)
Renewal of LEOSA Permit and LEO Handgun Permit. Click on Gun Renewal Requests at above Link.

See the LEOSA Section on the **USA Page** at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- **DC Court of Appeals – Ammo Bans**
- **US Dist. Ct for DC – Injunction Against Just Cause for Issue of Permits. (5/17/16)**
- **US Dist. Ct for DC - Order by the Court for Above Injunction. (5/17/16)**
- **US Dist. Ct for DC – Wrenn vs DC – Just Cause Permanent Injunction Issued. (7/25/17)**

Airport Carry/Misc. Information Link to DC Code Link to DC Admin Rules

Airport Carry: **No Airports in DC** **See VA Page for Reagan and Dulles information.**

Training Valid for: **2 Years** **(Administrative Rule 24-2337.2 (C)(1))**

Time Period to Establish Residency: **Unknown but most likely when you obtain a DC Drivers License.**

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

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

State Firearm Laws: **22-2511 thru 22-4508 & 7-2502.01 thru 7-2502.14**
Administrative Rules 24-2300 - 24-2399

State Deadly Force Laws: **No laws found.**

State Knife Laws: **22-4514**

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: **7-2502.12 thru 7-2502.14**

Body Armor Laws: **Unknown**

State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s: **DC Code § 7-2507.02**

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **NO**

Red Flag Statute: **D.C. Code § 7–2510.02 through § 7-2510.12**

Notes

What Does DC Consider A Loaded Firearm?

DC Code does not define a Loaded 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

Handgunlaw.us can find no specific laws on the "Emergency Powers" of the Governor or other state officials. That does not mean there are no laws covering this topic but that they just couldn't be found. During a state of emergency a Governor has very broad powers that are mainly restrained by law. If there are no laws limiting a Governor in what they can or cannot do they can do just about anything they deem appropriate in an Emergency and let things get sorted out after the emergency is past. Looking at New Orleans after Katrina shows you what they can or will do if there are no laws restraining State Government(s).

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.

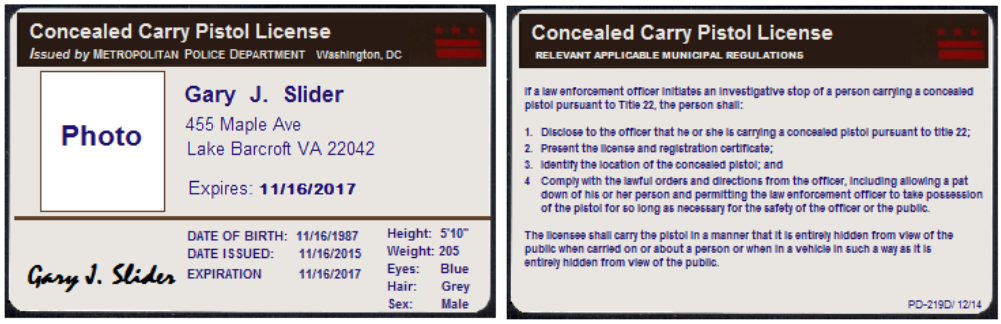
DC **21 Y/O** **Title 7 Subtitle J Chpt. 25 § 7-2502.03.**

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. DC requires all firearms be registered.

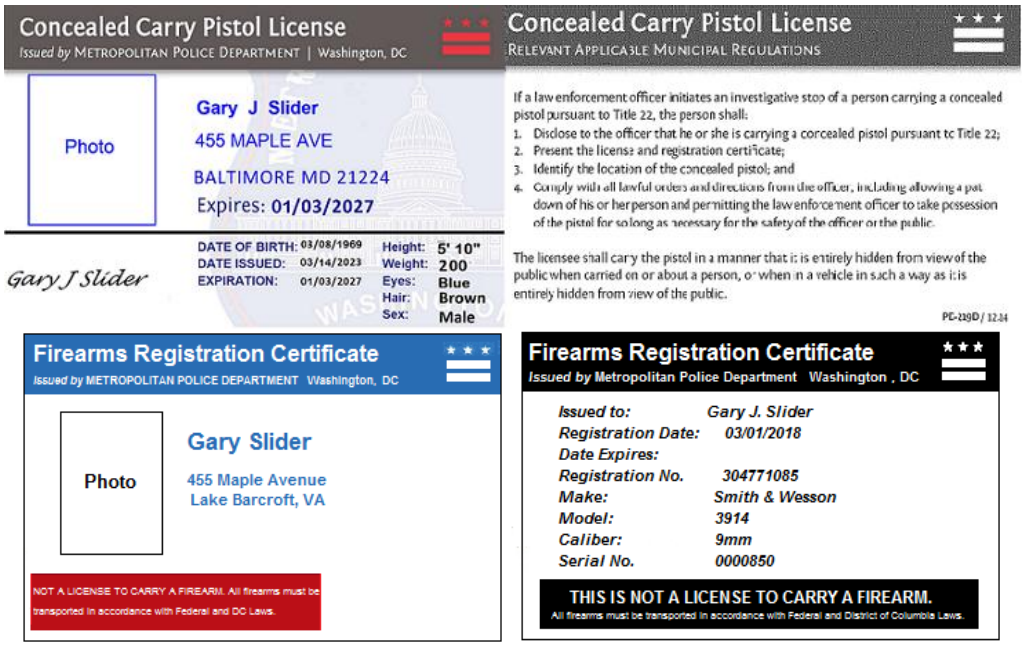
Note: In some states Possession and Transportation can be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

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

Permit/License Image



This image gives a very good representation of the District of Columbia Carry License.



Firearms Registration Certificate. You must register the firearm you are going to carry with DC and carry that card along with your License to carry when carrying your concealed firearm. This is not 100% but a good representation of the Registration Card.

Updates to this Page

101 Links*

Archive of Previous Updates 1

9/14/2024 – All External Links, Statutes and Admin Rules Quoted Have Been Checked and are up to Date and Point to the Most Up to Date Edition of that Statute/Admin
10/1/2024 - State Red Flag Statute Added to Airport Carry/Misc. Information Section.
3/7/2025 – All Links Checked.
4/20/2025 – Second Image of DC License Added.
7/1/2025 – All Links Checked.
8/18/2025 – Notice in How to Apply Section Updated.
9/1/2025 – Texas Now Honors the DC Permit. Map Updated.
10/15/2025 – All External Links, Statutes and Admin Rules Quoted Have Been Checked and are up to Date and Point to the Most Up to Date Published Edition of that Statute/Admin Rule and/or Document.
11/18/2025 – Metro Police DC Links Updated. MPDC Updated Their Website.
12/1/2025 – How to Apply Link Added to Links Section.
1/20/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
3/15/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
6/5/2026 – All Links checked.
9/5/2026 – All Links checked.