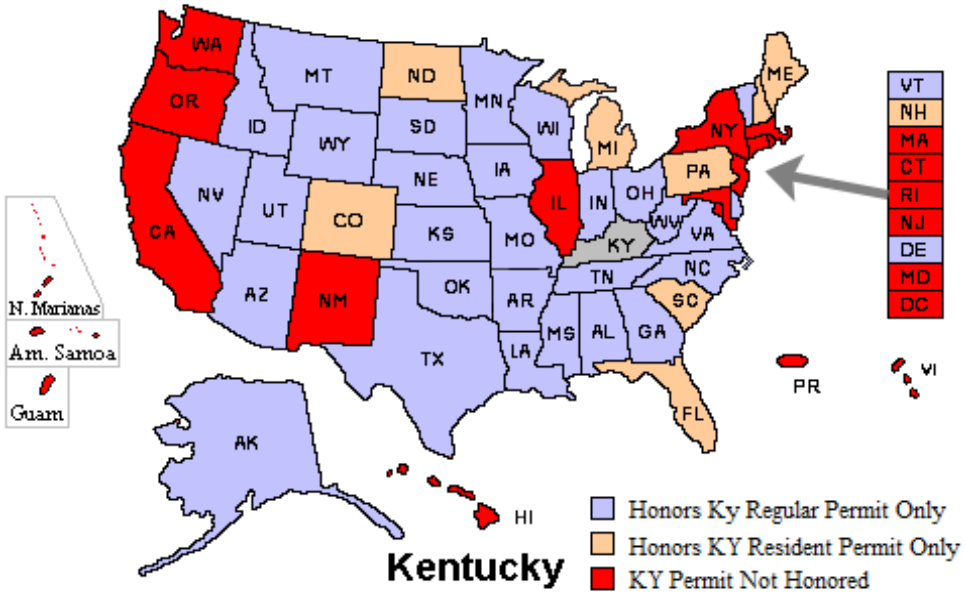
Kentucky

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer Immediately: NO

(See Must Inform Section)

Permitless Carry State



Map Shows States That Honor KY Regular Permit issued to those 21 or Older.

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.

Kentucky CCW Links√

- State CCW Site
- Apply Online
  Must Register
- Paper App Process
- CCDW Forms
- FAQ Applying - CCDW Carrying
- FAQ Permitless Carry
- State Statutes
- State Admin Rules
- State Reciprocity Info
- 2nd CCW Site
- State Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

Last Updated: 9/5/2026

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

Kentucky honors all other states Permit/Licenses 18 or older.
Kentucky State Police **FAQs** on Permitless Carry

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

Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

KRS 237.110 License to Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon

(20) (a) A person who is not a resident of Kentucky and who has a valid license issued by another state of the United States to carry a concealed deadly weapon in that state may, subject to provisions of Kentucky law, carry a concealed deadly weapon in Kentucky, and his or her license shall be considered as valid in Kentucky.

2025 Ky. Acts ch. 59, sec. 7, effective July 1

Permitless Carry

KRS 237.109 Authorization To Carry Concealed Deadly Weapons Without A License.

(1) Persons age twenty-one (21) or older, and otherwise able to lawfully possess a firearm, may carry concealed firearms or other concealed deadly weapons without a license in the same locations as persons

with valid licenses issued under KRS 237.110.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow the carrying or possession of any deadly weapon where it is prohibited by federal law. 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2019

Notice: Though KY Issues a Provisional Permit to those 18 or older and honors all other states Permits Issued to those 18 or older KY law still states that to carry under Permitless Carry in KY You must be 21.

Kentucky State Police **FAQs** on Permitless Carry

How to Apply for a Permit

Process for Paper Application and Renewal can be seen at the KY State Police Website Here.

KRS 237.110 License to Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon

(7) (a) 2. An applicant, in lieu of a paper application, may submit an electronic application for a license, or renewal of a license, to carry a concealed deadly weapon to the Department of Kentucky State Police. (You can go to the Online Application **Here**.) 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 59, sec. 7, effective July 1, 2025

Note: Kentucky now has online Applications, Renewal and for those who need an Emergency License because of a Protective Order. You have to register. See the **Qualifications for CCDW** to see if you qualify.

An applicant can also apply for a CCDW license by completing an application form obtained at the sheriff's office in his or her county of residence. The applicant must also pay the $60 application fee at the time of application (active and retired peace officers that meet the requirements of KRS 237.110(7) are exempt from paying the application or renewal fee). The sixty-dollar fee is to be allocated as follows:

- Payment of twenty dollars to the sheriff of your county of residence.
- The second payment, should be a check or money order in the amount of forty dollars ($40.00), made payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer.

Applications that are not accompanied by a check or money order for forty dollars ($40.00) payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer will be returned unprocessed to the sheriff of the applicant's county of residence.

The application will be sent to the Kentucky State Police within five working days.

The application form, completed under oath, must include the following:

- Name, Address, Date of Birth, Gender and Social Security Number.
- Recent color photograph: full head shot no smaller than 3 ½ x 4 nor larger than 4x5 inches.
- A photocopy of a certificate or an affidavit or document certifying completion of a firearms training
- course offered or approved by the Department of Criminal Justice Training.

The CCDW License Application - Citizenship Affidavit (KSP 131) must be completed and submitted to the sheriff of your county of residence to be attached to the application. You can download the KSP 131 by clicking **Here**. **(Word Document)**

KRS 237.122 . . . In-Service Training -- Fees.

(8) No firearms instructor trainer or certified firearms instructor shall charge a fee in excess of seventy-five dollars ($75) for the conduct of an applicant training course. An instructor trainer o r certified firearms instructor may charge a student the actual cost of range use, targets and associated range materials, and classroom rental not to exceed ten dollars ($10) for all of the items specified in this

subsection. The instructor trainer or certified firearms instructor shall remit twenty-five dollars ($25) per student to the department to cover the provision of training materials distributed and providing evidence of successful completion of the course. Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 182, sec. 3, effective June 29, 2017

Provisional Permits

KRS 237.XXX "Provisional License" New Section. (HB 312 2026)

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Provisional license" means a license to carry concealed firearms or other deadly weapons issued pursuant to this section; and

(b) "Standard license" means a license to carry concealed firearms or other deadly weapons issued pursuant to KRS 237.110.

(2) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall issue provisional licenses to carry concealed firearms or other deadly weapons, or a combination thereof, to persons who:

(a) Are eighteen (18) years of age but younger than twenty-one (21) years of age; and

(b) Notwithstanding KRS 237.110(4)(c), otherwise meet the criteria set forth in KRS 237.110(4) and the requirements of KRS 237.110(3).

(3) (a) Except as provided in this section, the issuance and regulation of provisional licenses to carry concealed firearms and deadly weapons shall be governed by KRS 237.110.

(b) Any reference in the Kentucky Revised Statutes to a license issued pursuant to KRS 237.110 shall also be considered a reference to a provisional license issued pursuant to this section.

(4) A provisional license issued pursuant to this section shall:

(a) Be valid throughout the Commonwealth and, except as provided in other specific sections of the Kentucky Revised Statutes or federal law, permit the holder of the provisional license to carry firearms, ammunition, other deadly weapons, or a combination thereof, at any location in the Commonwealth;

(b) Unless revoked or suspended as provided by law, be valid until the holder turns twenty-one (21) years of age;

(c) Authorize the holder of the provisional license to carry a concealed firearm, other deadly weapon, or a combination thereof, on or about his or her person; and

(d) Authorize the holder of the provisional license to carry ammunition for a firearm on or about his or her person.

(5) A provisional license issued under this section shall be readily distinguishable from a standard license issued pursuant to KRS 237.110. 1

(6) (a) Not less than ninety (90) days before the expiration of the provisional license, the Department of Kentucky State Police shall mail to the holder of the provisional license a written notice of the expiration and an application to switch from a provisional license to a standard license. The application to switch from a provisional license to a standard license shall be in a format prescribed by the Department of Kentucky State Police.

(b) The outside of the envelope shall bear only the name and address of the applicant. No other information relating to the applicant shall appear on the outside of the envelope sent to the applicant.

(c) The holder of a provisional license may apply for a standard license by:

1. Filing with the sheriff of his or her county of residence the paper application form under this subsection, or filing with the Department of Kentucky State Police an electronic application form in lieu of a paper application form;

2. Stating that he or she remains qualified pursuant to the criteria specified in KRS 237.110(3) and (4); and

3. Paying an application fee prescribed by the Department of Kentucky State Police.

(d) The sheriff shall issue to the applicant a receipt for the paper application to switch from a provisional license to a standard license and shall date the receipt. The Department of Kentucky State Police shall issue to the applicant a receipt for an electronic application to switch from a provisional license to a standard license and shall date the receipt.

(e) A standard license under KRS 237.110 shall be issued to a qualified applicant upon:

1. Receipt of the completed application to switch from a provisional license to a standard license;

2. Records check as specified in KRS 237.110(3);

3. Determination that the applicant is not ineligible for a standard license as specified in KRS 237.110(4); and

4. Appropriate payment of fees. Upon issuance of the standard license, the provisional license shall be destroyed by the sheriff.

(f) The holder of a provisional license who fails to submit an application to switch from a provisional license to a standard license within six (6) months of the expiration of the provisional license shall be required to submit an application under KRS 237.110.

(g) A standard license issued under this subsection shall not be valid until an applicant is twenty-one (21) years of age. A provisional licensee who applies for a standard license under this subsection shall not be required to retake the firearms training described in KRS 237.110(4).

(7) A provisional license which has expired shall be void and shall not be valid for any purpose other than surrender to the sheriff in exchange for a standard license.

(8) The Department of Kentucky State Police may promulgate any necessary administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to administer this section. HB 312 2026

Renewal Process

Not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the expiration date of a CCDW license, the Department of State Police shall mail to each licensee a written notice of the expiration and a renewal form. If you wish to renew your CCDW license, you must take the renewal notice, a **CCDW License Citizenship/ Immigration Status Affidavit** and a color photograph to the Sheriff of your county of residence**. You can download the CCDW License Citizenship/Immigration Status Affidavit (KSP 131) to be submitted with the renewal form to the Sheriff of your county of residence.** The photograph must be in color. The photograph must be no less than three and one-half (3 ½) inches by four (4) inches and no more than four (4) inches by five (5) inches. The photograph shall display the full front of the head and the facial features of the applicant. The applicant shall not wear sunglasses or attire that obscures their facial features in the photograph. The photograph shall be an original photograph or a photographic copy developed from the negative of an original photograph and must not be an image produced by a computer, copier or other copy machine.

If you fail to renew your license on or before the expiration date and wish to renew your license, you will be required to pay an additional late fee of fifteen dollars ($15.00).

To pay the renewal fee, you must submit a payment to the Sheriff in the amount of twenty dollars and a check or money order in the amount of forty dollars (fifty five dollars if the renewal application is submitted after the expiration date of the license) payable to the Department of State Police.

If six months or more has passed since the expiration date of your license, your license has permanently expired and cannot be renewed. If your license has permanently expired, you may reapply for licensure pursuant to KRS 237.110 by obtaining a CCDW application from the Sheriff of your county of residence.

KRS 403.754 **(1)** A petitioner for an order of protection granted under KRS 403.715 to 403.785 may apply for a temporary permit to carry a concealed deadly weapon on or about his or her person into those places and under the same conditions as a person holding a carry concealed deadly weapon license issued under KRS 237.110. (Note: See complete Law) 2014 Ky. Acts ch. 120, sec. 4,

Note: If moving into Kentucky see Non-Resident Permit Section Below.

Non-Resident Permits

Kentucky will issue a License to Carry to military personnel if:

Is a citizen of the United States who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is on active duty, who is at the time of application assigned to a military posting in Kentucky (If you meet the above requirement you would apply like a resident.)

KRS 237.110 License to Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon

(20) (b) If a person with a valid license to carry a concealed deadly weapon issued from another state that has entered into a reciprocity agreement with the Department of Kentucky State Police becomes a resident of Kentucky, the license issued by the other state shall be considered as valid for the first one hundred twenty (120) days of the person's residence in Kentucky, if within sixty (60) days of moving to Kentucky, the person completes a form promulgated by the Department of Kentucky State Police which shall include:

(c) Within sixty (60) days of moving to Kentucky, the person shall deliver the form and accompanying documents by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address indicated on the form provided by the Department of Kentucky State Police pursuant to this subsection. (Note: See Complete Law) 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 59, sec. 7, effective July 1, 2025

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

KRS 237.110 License to Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon. . . . Prohibitions

(16) Except as provided in KRS 527.020, no license issued pursuant to this section shall authorize any person to carry a concealed firearm into:

(a) Any police station or sheriff's office;

(b) Any detention facility, prison, or jail;

(c) Any courthouse, solely occupied by the Court of Justice courtroom, or court proceeding;

(d) Any meeting of the governing body of a county, municipality, or special district; or any meeting of the General Assembly or a committee of the General Assembly, except that nothing in this section shall preclude a member of the body, holding a concealed deadly weapon license, from carrying a concealed deadly weapon at a meeting of the body of which he or she is a member;

(e) Any portion of an establishment licensed to dispense beer or alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, which portion of the establishment is primarily devoted to that purpose;

(f) Any elementary or secondary school facility without the consent of school authorities as provided in KRS 527.070, any child-caring facility as defined in KRS 199.011, any day-care center as defined in KRS 199.894, or any certified family child-care home as defined in KRS 199.8982, except however, any owner of a certified child-care home may carry a concealed firearm into the owner's residence used as a certified child-care home;

(g) An area of an airport to which access is controlled by the inspection of persons and property; or

(h) Any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law.

(17) The owner, business or commercial lessee, or manager of a private business enterprise, day-care center as defined in KRS 199.894 or certified or licensed family child-care home as defined in KRS 199.8982, or a health-care facility licensed under KRS Chapter 216B, except facilities renting or leasing housing, may prohibit persons holding concealed deadly weapon licenses from carrying concealed deadly weapons on the premises and may prohibit employees, not authorized by the employer, holding concealed deadly weapons licenses from carrying concealed deadly weapons on the property of the employer. If the building or the premises are open to the public, the employer or business enterprise shall post signs on or about the premises if carrying concealed weapons is prohibited. Possession of weapons, or ammunition, or both in a vehicle on the premises shall not be a criminal offense so long as the weapons, or ammunition, or both are not removed from the vehicle or brandished while the vehicle is on the premises. A private but not a public employer may prohibit employees or other persons holding a concealed deadly weapons license from carrying concealed deadly weapons, or ammunition, or both in vehicles owned by the employer, but may not prohibit employees or other persons holding a concealed deadly weapons license from carrying concealed deadly weapons, or ammunition, or both in vehicles owned by the employee, except that the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet may prohibit an employee from carrying any weapons, or ammunition, or both other than the weapons, or ammunition, or both issued or authorized to be used by the employee of the cabinet, in a vehicle while transporting persons under the employee's supervision or jurisdiction. Carrying of a concealed weapon, or ammunition, or both in a location specified in this subsection by a license holder shall not be a criminal act but may subject the person to denial from the premises or removal from the premises, and, if an employee of an employer, disciplinary measures by the employer. 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 59, sec. 7, effective July 1, 2025,

KRS 527.070 Unlawful Possession of a Weapon on School Property --Posting of sign -- Exemptions.

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a weapon on school property when he knowingly deposits, possesses, or carries, whether openly or concealed, for purposes other than instructional or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or the purposes permitted in subsection (3) of this section, any firearm or other deadly weapon, destructive device, or booby trap device in any public or private school building or bus, on any public or private school campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field, or any other property owned, used, or operated by any board of education, school, board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution. The provisions of this section shall not apply to institutions of postsecondary or higher education.

(2) Each chief administrator of a public or private school shall display about the school in prominent locations, including, but not limited to, sports arenas, gymnasiums, stadiums, and cafeterias, a sign at least six (6) inches high and fourteen (14) inches wide stating:

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IN KENTUCKY IS A FELONY PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM OF FIVE (5) YEARS IN PRISON AND A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR ($10,000) FINE.

Failure to post the sign shall not relieve any person of liability under this section.

(3) The provisions of this section prohibiting the unlawful possession of a weapon on school property shall not apply to:

(a) An adult who is not a pupil of any secondary school and who possesses a firearm, if the firearm is contained within a vehicle operated by the adult and is not removed from the vehicle, except for a purpose permitted herein, or brandished by the adult, or by any other person acting with expressed or implied consent of the adult, while the vehicle is on school property;

(f) Any other persons, including, but not limited to, exhibitors of historical displays, who have been authorized to carry a firearm by the board of education or board of trustees of the public or private institution;

(4) Unlawful possession of a weapon on school property is a Class D felony.

Amended 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 111, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2019.

Note: **Armed Campus Organization** Has information on all the States Campus Carry Statutes, Regulations and Policies with some covering firearms Policies on each school's campus.

An area of an airport to which access is controlled by the inspection of Possession of weapons, or ammunition, or both in a vehicle on the premises shall not be a criminal offense so long as the weapons, or ammunition, or both are not removed from the vehicle or brandished while the vehicle is on the premises. A private but not a public employer may prohibit employees or other persons holding a concealed deadly weapons license from carrying concealed deadly weapons, or ammunition, or both in vehicles owned by the employer, but may not prohibit employees or other persons holding a concealed deadly weapons license from carrying concealed deadly weapons, or ammunition, or both in vehicles owned by the employee, except that the Justice Cabinet may prohibit an employee from carrying any weapons, or ammunition, or both other than the weapons, or ammunition, or both issued or authorized to be used Page 6 of 11 by the employee of the cabinet, in a vehicle while transporting persons under the employee's supervision or jurisdiction.

Land Between The Lakes (USDA Forest Service

(Valid Permit/License Carry Allowed)

United States Department of Agriculture
United States Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area
ORDER No. 60-09-13: Hunting and Fishing Prohibitions (Edited for Space Considerations)

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

1. Possession of firearms is prohibited except during legal firearms hunting seasons by licensed hunters and going to and from the LBL-NRA firearms range. Firearms must be cased and unloaded during transport. 36 CFR 261.53(e)

The above prohibited acts are set forth in Title 36 C.F.R, Section 261. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. 261.50(e) the following persons are exempt from the provisions of the above order.

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

Note: I received this email in April 2010.

Kathryn Harper
Manager, Communication Services

USDA Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area
http://www.landbetweenthelakes.us/

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

1. Possession of firearms is prohibited except during legal firearms hunting seasons by licensed hunters and going to and from the LBL NRA firearms range. Firearms must be cased and unloaded during transport.

2. Firearms possessed during legal hunting seasons by licensed hunters must be cased and unloaded (chamber + magazine) while being transported in a motorized vehicle.

3. LBL LE&I also states that the concealed firearms carry permit does not apply to LBL NRA at this time, although the LE officers at LBL will honor the concealed carry permit if there are no other aggravating circumstances. Examples of aggravating circumstances are, but not limited to, violation of the concealed carry permit itself, shooting from a roadway, or shooting outside of the LBL firearms range".

Firearms on Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA Property)

12. Firearms Are Prohibited Except As Specifically Noted. While firearms and weapons are generally prohibited, possession of firearms and other weapons associated with in-season hunting excursions are permissible if they are unloaded and properly cased. **Possession of firearms at TVA public boat ramps (and associated roads and parking areas when used in conjunction with a boat ramp) is allowed if the possession complies with the law of the state where the boat ramp is located and is not otherwise prohibited by law. Otherwise firearms and weapons are prohibited.**

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

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

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

"NO" **KRS 237.110**

"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 Kentucky 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.

Parking Lot Storage Law

KRS 237.106 Right of Employees and Other Persons to Possess Firearms in Vehicle -- Employer

Liable for Denying Right -- Exceptions.

(1) No person, including but not limited to an employer, who is the owner, lessee, or occupant of real property shall prohibit any person who is legally entitled to possess a firearm from possessing a firearm, part of a firearm, ammunition, or ammunition component in a vehicle on the property.

(2) A person, including but not limited to an employer, who owns, leases, or otherwise occupies real property may prevent a person who is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm or ammunition from possessing a firearm or ammunition on the property.

(3) A firearm may be removed from the vehicle or handled in the case of self-defense, defense of another, defense of property, or as authorized by the owner, lessee, or occupant of the property.

(4) An employer that fires, disciplines, demotes, or otherwise punishes an employee who is lawfully exercising a right guaranteed by this section and who is engaging in conduct in compliance with this statute shall be liable in civil damages. An employee may seek and the court shall grant an injunction against an employer who is violating the provisions of this section when it is found that the employee is in compliance with the provisions of this section.

(5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any real property:

(a) Owned, leased, or occupied by the United States government, upon which the possession or carrying of firearms is prohibited or controlled;

(b) Of a detention facility as defined in KRS 520.010; or

(c) Where a section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes specifically prohibits possession or carrying of firearms on the property.

2006 Ky. Acts ch. 240, sec. 8, effective July 12, 2006.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

"NO" Handgunlaw.us recommends you carry your State ID if carrying under Permitless Carry.

KRS 237.110 **(15)** The licensee shall carry the license at all times the licensee is carrying a concealed firearm or other deadly weapon and shall display the license upon request of a law enforcement officer. Violation of the provisions of this subsection shall constitute a noncriminal violation with a penalty of twenty-five dollars ($25), payable to the clerk of the District Court, but no court costs shall be assessed.

2025 Ky. Acts ch. 59, sec. 7, effective July 1, 2025.

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

***State Parks:** **YES** No Statute/Admin Rule against it.

State/National Forests: **YES** No Statute/Admin Rule against it.

State WMA: **YES** **301 KAR 3:010** (No Statute/Reg stating it is illegal)**.**

Road Side Rest Areas: **YES**

***Notice:** If State Park Carry is Legal in this state and if that state park is located on a lake created by the US Army Corp of Engineers (COE) who owns the land and leases it to the state for that park the park is Off Limits to the legal carrying of firearms per federal law. **36 CFR 327.13** District Commanders received this Memorandum detailing how they could authorize someone to carry on (COE) property. The (COE) has also

put out a Pamphlet on carrying firearms on (COE) Property. They do not post their property you must know the boundaries. Hunting **is usually** allowed during hunting season.

RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

KRS § 237.109

(1) Persons age twenty-one (21) or older, and otherwise able to lawfully possess a firearm, may carry concealed firearms or other concealed deadly weapons without a license in the same locations as persons with valid licenses issued under KRS 237.110.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow the carrying or possession of any deadly weapon where it is prohibited by federal law. 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2019.

Note: **Kentucky allows anyone 21 or older** who can legally possess a firearm to carry a firearm concealed without any type of permit.

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Open Carry is legal in Kentucky. Not all places listed in the "Places Off Limits" apply to those who are Open Carrying. It is up to you to know what laws apply to you when Open Carrying. When open carrying, be prepared for Police Officers to question you as open carrying firearm gets their attention. See the "RV/Car Carry Without a Permit" section for carrying in a vehicle.

The state preempts all firearm laws in the state and local authorities can't have Laws/Ordinances against open carry. Remember that if you enter any property and the owner/responsible person ask you to leave you must leave. Failure to leave can result in Trespass Charges. Kentucky Government White Paper on Open Carry can be seen **Here.** The Minimum age for Open Carry is 18

In some states Open Carry is forbidden in places where those with a valid permit/license can carry. This is not the last word on Open Carry in this state. Go to Google and type in State Name Open Carry or Open Carry State Name for a search for open carry info in this state. Check with the **State's RKBA** Organization/s. Also see "Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases" Section for any written opinions/Cases on Open Carry.

State Preemption

KRS 65.870 **Local Firearms Control Ordinances Prohibited.**

(1) No existing or future city, county, urban-county government, charter county, consolidated local government, unified local government, special district, local or regional public or quasi-public agency, board, commission, department, public corporation, or any person acting under the authority of any of these organizations may occupy any part of the field of regulation of the manufacture, sale, purchase, taxation, transfer, ownership, possession, carrying, storage, or transportation of firearms, ammunition, components of firearms, components of ammunition, firearms accessories, or combination thereof.

(2) Any existing or future ordinance, executive order, administrative regulation, policy, procedure, rule, or any other form of executive or legislative action in violation of this section or the spirit thereof is hereby declared null, void, and unenforceable.

(3) Any person or organization specified in subsection (1) of this section shall repeal, rescind, or amend to conform, any ordinance, administrative regulation, executive order, policy, procedure, rule, or other form of executive or legislative action in violation of this section or the spirit thereof within six (6) months after the effective date of this Act July 12, 2012.

(4) Pursuant to Section 231 of the Constitution of Kentucky insofar as any person or organization specified in subsection (1) of this section is considered an agent of the Commonwealth, it is the intent of the General Assembly to exempt them from any immunity provided in Section 231 of the Constitution of Kentucky to the extent provided in this section. A person or an organization whose membership is adversely affected by any ordinance, administrative regulation, executive order, policy, procedure, rule or any other form of executive or legislative action promulgated or caused to be enforced in violation of this section or the spirit thereof may file suit against any person or organization specified in subsection (1) of this section in any court of this state having jurisdiction over any defendant to the suit for declaratory and injunctive relief. A court shall award the prevailing party in any such suit:

(a) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs in accordance with the laws of this state; and

(b) Expert witness fees and expenses.

(5) If any person or organization specified in subsection (1) of this section violates this section or the spirit thereof, the court shall declare the improper ordinance, administrative regulation, executive order, policy, procedure, rule, or other form of executive or legislative action specified in subsection (1) of this section null, void, and unenforceable, and issue a permanent injunction against the person or organization specified in subsection (1) of this section prohibiting the enforcement of such ordinance, administrative regulation, executive order, policy, procedure, rule, or any other form of executive or legislative action specified in subsection (1) of this section.

(6) A violation of this section by a public servant shall be a violation of either KRS 522.020 or 522.030 depending on the circumstances of the violation.

(7) The provisions of this section shall not apply where a statute specifically authorizes or directs an agency or person specified in subsection (1) of this section to regulate a subject specified in subsection (1) of this section.

History: Amended 2012 Ky. Acts ch. 117, sec. 1,

237.115 Construction of KRS 237.110

Prohibition by local government units of carrying concealed deadly weapons in governmental buildings -- Restriction on criminal penalties.

(1) Except as provided in KRS 527.020, nothing contained in KRS 237.109 or 237.110 shall be construed to limit, restrict, or prohibit in any manner the right of a college, university, or any postsecondary education facility, including technical schools and community colleges, to control the possession of deadly weapons on any property owned or controlled by them or the right of a unit of state, city, county, urbancounty, or charter county government to prohibit the carrying of concealed deadly weapons in that portion of a building actually owned, leased, or occupied by that unit of government.

(2) Except as provided in KRS 527.020, the legislative body of a state, city, county, or urban-county government may, by statute, administrative regulation, or ordinance, prohibit or limit the carrying of concealed deadly weapons in that portion of a building owned, leased, or controlled by that unit of government. That portion of a building in which the carrying of concealed deadly weapons is prohibited or limited shall be clearly identified by signs posted at the entrance to the restricted area. The statute or ordinance shall exempt any building used for public housing by private persons, highway rest areas, firing ranges, and private dwellings owned, leased, or controlled by that unit of government from any restriction on the carrying or possession of deadly weapons. The statute, administrative regulation, or ordinance shall not specify any criminal penalty for its violation but may specify that persons violating the statute or ordinance

may be denied entrance to the building, ordered to leave the building, and if employees of the unit of government, be subject to employee disciplinary measures for violation of the provisions of the statute or ordinance. The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to be a violation of KRS 65.870 if the requirements of this section are followed. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any other unit of government.

(3) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the Kentucky Revised Statutes or applicable federal law, no criminal penalty shall attach to carrying a concealed firearm or other deadly weapon at any location at which an unconcealed firearm or other deadly weapon may be constitutionally carried.

Amended 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 3, effective June 27, 2019

Deadly Force Laws

Title L – Kentucky Penal Code
Chapter 503 General Principles of Justification

KRS 503.010 Definitions for chapter.
KRS 503.020 Justification -- A defense.
KRS 503.030 Choice of evils.
KRS 503.040 Execution of public duty.
KRS 503.050 Use of physical force in self-protection -- Admissibility of evidence of prior acts of domestic violence and abuse.
KRS 503.055 Use of defensive force regarding dwelling, residence, or occupied vehicle -- Exceptions.
KRS 503.060 Improper use of physical force in self-protection.
KRS 503.070 Protection of another.
KRS 503.080 Protection of property.
KRS 503.085 Justification and criminal and civil immunity for use of permitted force -- Exceptions.
KRS 503.090 Use of physical force in law enforcement.
KRS 503.100 Prevention of a suicide or crime.
KRS 503.110 Use of force by person with responsibility for care, discipline, or safety of others.
KRS 503.120 Justification -- General provisions.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES **KRS 237.110**

Note: A "YES" above means you can carry into places like described below. "NO" means you can't. Handgunlaw.us definition of "Restaurant Carry" is carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol. Places like Friday's or Red Lobster unless posted with "No Gun Signs." This may or may not mean the bar or the bar area of a restaurant. But you can carry your firearm into a restaurant that serves alcohol and sit and eat without consuming. Handgunlaw.us recommends you not sit at the Bar or in the Bar area of such restaurants. In some states it is illegal to be in the Bar area of such restaurants. Handgunlaw.us believes you should never consume alcohol when carrying your firearm. In some states it is illegal to take even one drink while carrying a firearm. If you want further info on carrying in places that serve alcohol check your state laws.

Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

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

LEOSA State Information

Kentucky LEOSA Info

LEOSA **KRS 527.020**

(5) The following persons, if they hold a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon pursuant to KRS 237.110 or 237.138 to 237.142, may carry a firearm or other concealed deadly weapon on or about their persons at all times and at all locations within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, without any limitation other than as provided in this subsection:

1. A Commonwealth's attorney or assistant Commonwealth's attorney;

2. A retired Commonwealth's attorney or retired assistant Commonwealth's attorney;

3. A county attorney or assistant county attorney;

4. A retired county attorney or retired assistant county attorney;

5. A justice or judge of the Court of Justice;

6. A retired or senior status justice or judge of the Court of Justice; and

7. A retired peace officer who holds a concealed deadly weapon license issued pursuant to the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. sec. 926C, and KRS 237.138 to 237.142. Amended 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 159, sec. 24, effective July 15, 2024.

237.137 Concealed Carry Authority for Off-Duty and Certified Retired Peace Officers.

237.138 Application of KRS 237.138 to 237.142 to retired peace officers.

237.140 Certification for retired peace officer to carry concealed deadly weapon – Administrative regulations -- Requirements -- Firearms instruction.

237.142 Availability of range facilities for retired peace officers.

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

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- **Kentucky AG - Carry In City Parks and Buildings**
- **Kentucky AG - Preemption of City Regs on CCW**
- **Kentucky AG - Carry in County Courts/Buildings**
- **Kentucky AG - Prohibiting Carry on State Property**
- **Kentucky AG - Carry on a College Campus**
- **Kentucky AG - Cities of the First Class Registering Firearms**
- **Kentucky Supreme Ct – Storing Firearms in Vehicles on University Property**
- **US Dist Ct Ruling on Employee Storage Requirements**
- **KY AG – Cities Can't Ban Open Carry or Carry by Employees Outside Buildings** **(10/2021)**

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Link to State Statutes

Airport Carry: **Parking Lots and Terminal OK. KRS 237.11**

Training Valid for: **No Set Time Period**

Time Period to Establish Residency: **Upon Obtaining Drivers License/State Issued ID.**

Minimum Age for Permit/License: **18**

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

State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute: **KRS 237.110**

State Firearm Laws: **KRS 237.020 thru 237.990**

State Deadly Force Laws: **KRS 503.010 thru 503.120**

State Knife Laws: **KRS 500.08**

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: **No Laws found.**

Body Armor Laws: **No laws found.**

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **YES** **KRS 237.110**

State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s: **KY Statute § 527.110**

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? **YES** **KY Hunting and Trapping Guide**

Notes

What Does KY Consider A Loaded Firearm?

KRS 237.060 Definitions for KRS 237.060 to 237.090 and Certain Other Sections.

(4) "Loaded" with respect to a firearm means:
(a) There is ammunition in the chamber of the firearm; or
(b) There is ammunition in the cylinder of the firearm; or
(c) There is ammunition in the magazine of a firearm, if the magazine is attached to the firearm.

1996 Ky. Acts ch. 191, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1996

State Emergency Powers

KRS 237.104 Rights to Acquire, Carry, and Use Deadly Weapons Not to Be Impaired -- Seizure of Deadly Weapons Prohibited -- Application of Section.

(1) No person, unit of government, or governmental organization shall, during a period of disaster or emergency as specified in KRS Chapter 39A or at any other time, have the right to revoke, suspend, limit the use of, or otherwise impair the validity of the right of any person to purchase, transfer, loan, own, possess,

carry, or use a firearm, firearm part, ammunition, ammunition component, or any deadly weapon or dangerous instrument.

(2) No person, unit of government, or governmental organization shall, during a period of disaster or emergency as specified in KRS Chapter 39A or at any other time, take, seize, confiscate, or impound a firearm, firearm part, ammunition, ammunition component, or any deadly weapon or dangerous instrument from any person.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the taking of an item specified in subsection (1) or (2) of this section from a person who is:

(a) Forbidden to possess a firearm pursuant to KRS 527.040;
(b) Forbidden to possess a firearm pursuant to federal law;
(c) Violating KRS 527.020;
(d) In possession of a stolen firearm;
(e) Using a firearm in the commission of a separate criminal offense; or
(f) Using a firearm or other weapon in the commission of an offense under KRS Chapter 150.

Effective: July 12, 2006 History: Created 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 240, sec. 7, effective July 12, 2006.

39A.100 Emergency Powers of Governor and Local Chief Executive Officers -- Report by Governor -- Construction of Statute -- Prohibition of Discriminatory Action Against Religious Organization -- Definitions -- Cause of Action -- Remedies. (Edited for Space Considerations)

(1) In the event of the occurrence or threatened or impending occurrence of any of the situations or events enumerated in KRS 39A.010, 39A.020, or 39A.030, the Governor may declare, in writing, that a state of emergency exists. The Governor shall have and may exercise the following emergency powers during the period in which the state of emergency exists:

(a) To enforce all laws, and administrative regulations relating to disaster and emergency response and to assume direct operational control of all disaster and emergency response forces and activities in the Commonwealth;

(b) To require state agencies and to request local governments, local agencies, and special districts to respond to the emergency or disaster in the manner directed;

(c) To seize, take, or condemn property, for the duration of the emergency, and only for public use as defined in KRS 416.675, excluding firearms and ammunition, components of firearms and ammunition, or a combination thereof, for the protection of the public or at the request of the President, the Armed Forces, or the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the United States, including:

1. All means of transportation and communication;

2. All stocks of fuel of whatever nature;

3. Food, clothing, equipment, materials, medicines, and all supplies; and

4. Facilities, including buildings and plants, but excluding houses of worship, except to the extent that such houses have become unsafe to a degree that would justify condemnation in the absence of a state of emergency.

(g) To declare curfews and establish their limits;

(h) To prohibit or limit the sale or consumption of goods, in the event of a shortage of goods, excluding firearms and ammunition, components of firearms and ammunition, or a combination thereof, or commodities for the duration of the emergency

(2) Within thirty (30) days of a declared emergency, and every thirty (30) days thereafter, the Governor shall report to the General Assembly, if in session, or to the Legislative Research Commission if the General Assembly is not in session, on a form provided by the Commission detailing:

(3)(a) To enforce all laws and administrative regulations relating to disaster and emergency response and to direct all local disaster and emergency response forces and operations in the affected county, city, urban-county, or charter county;

(b) To exclude all nonessential, unauthorized, disruptive, or uncooperative personnel from the scene of the emergency, and to command persons or groups of persons at the scene to disperse. A person who refuses to leave an area in which a written order of evacuation has been issued in accordance with a written declaration of emergency or a disaster may be forcibly removed to a place of safety or shelter, or may, if this is resisted, be arrested by a peace officer. Forcible removal or arrest shall not be exercised as options until all reasonable efforts for voluntary compliance have been exhausted;

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any governmental entity to impose additional restrictions on:

(a) The lawful possession, transfer, sale, transport, carrying, storage, display, or use of firearms and ammunition or components of firearms and ammunition;

(b) The right of the people to exercise free speech, freedom of the press, to petition their government for redress of injuries, or to peaceably assemble; or

(c) The right of the people to worship, worship in person, or to act or refuse to act in a manner motivated by a sincerely held religious belief.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any governmental entity to impose restrictions on the right of the people to:

(a) Peaceably assemble; or

(b) Worship, worship in person, or to act or refuse to act in a manner motivated by a sincerely held religious belief.

(7) (a) A governmental entity shall not prohibit or restrict a religious organization from operating or engaging in religious services during a declared emergency to the same or any greater extent than other organizations or businesses that provide essential services necessary and vital to the health and welfare of the public are prohibited or restricted. Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 17, sec. 2,

Note: Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See **US Code 42-5207** for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies. The state quoted code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

Kentucky 18 Y/O Title L KY Penal Code, KRS 527.100

This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

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

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

Permit/License Image

I have been told the back of the KY License is Blank.



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

Archive of Previous Updates 2

1/17/2024 – Link to Campground Rules Add for TVA Property Listing in Places Off Limits.
7/4/2024 – Louisiana Added as Permitless Carry State in Listing Under Map.
7/30/2024 – Notice on Corp of Engineer Properties on their Lakes Added to State Park Carry.
9/1/2024 – 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 Rule and/or Document.
1/1/2025 - Note on Armed Campus Organization Link Which Has Information on Every States Campus Carry Statute/Regulation/Rules/Policies Added to Places Off Limits Section.
3/26/2025 – All Links Checked.
7/1/2025 – All Links Checked.
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 Edition of that Statute/Admin Rule and/or Document.
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.
7/15/2026 – Kentucky Now Issues Provisional Permits to those 18-20, Provisional Permit Law Added to How to Apply Section. Map Updated with Wording Added Stating the Map Shows States That Only Honor Their Regular Permit 21 Y/O and not Their Provisional Permit.
9/5/2026 – All Links Checked.