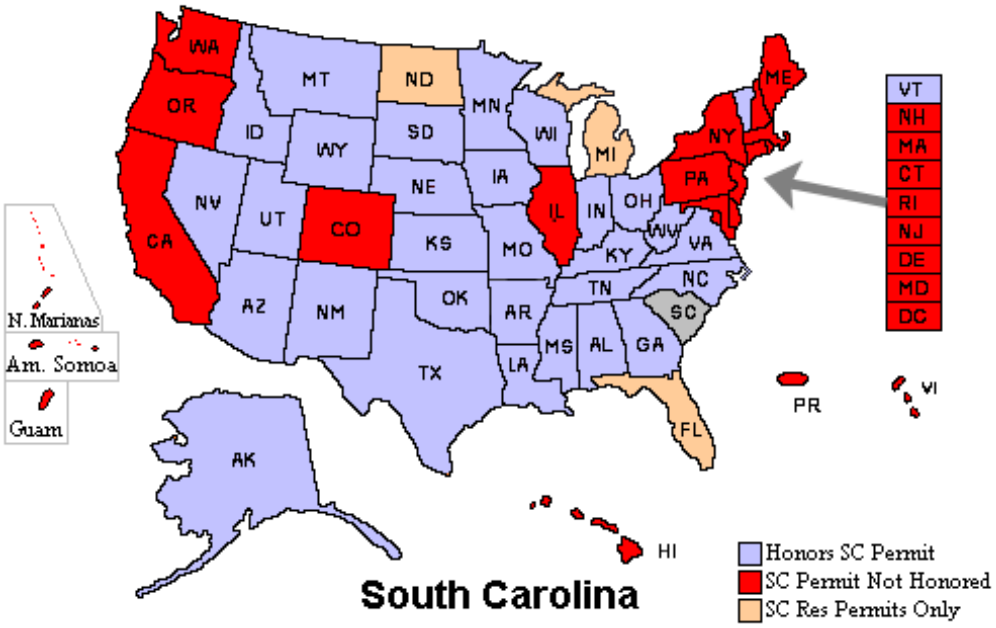
South Carolina

Shall Issue

Permitless Carry State

Must Inform Officer Immediately: NO

(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.

SC CCW Links√

- State CCW Site
- Permitless Carry Guidience From SLED
- State CWP FAQs
- SC Gun Laws
- CCW Application
- On-Line App & Renewal
- Electronic Fingerprinting Info
- Instructor/Student Checklist
- Instructors Listing
- State Statutes
- State Admin Rules
- State Attorney General
- Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

Last Updated: 9/5/2026

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

South Carolina no longer has a listing of states it honors and with Permitless Carry a permit is no longer required to carry a handgun Concealed or Openly in South Carolina at 18 Y/O.

Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

23-31-215 Issuance of Permits.

(N)(1) Valid out-of-state permits to carry concealable weapons held by a resident of a reciprocal state must be honored by this State, provided, that the reciprocal state requires an applicant to successfully pass a criminal background check and a course in firearm training and safety. A resident of a reciprocal state carrying a concealable weapon in South Carolina is subject to and must abide by the laws of South Carolina regarding concealable weapons. SLED shall maintain and publish a list of those states as the states with which South Carolina has reciprocity.

(2) Notwithstanding the reciprocity requirements of subitem (1), South Carolina shall automatically recognize concealed weapon permits issued by **Georgia** and **North Carolina**.

(3) The reciprocity provisions of this section shall not be construed to authorize the holder of any out-of-state permit or license to carry, in this State, any firearm or weapon other than a handgun.

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594)

Permitless Carry In South Carolina

23-31-215 Issuance of Permits

(O)(1) A permit issued pursuant to this article is not required for a person:

(a) carrying a self-defense device generally considered to be nonlethal including the substance commonly referred to as "pepper gas"; or

(b) carrying a concealable weapon in a manner not prohibited by law.

(2) The availability of a permit to carry a concealable weapon under this section must not be construed to prohibit the permitless transport or carrying of a firearm in a vehicle or on or about one's person, whether openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded, in a manner not prohibited by law.

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594)

How to Apply for a Permit

Concealed Weapons Permits, Security Guard, and Private Investigator Questions **(803) 896-7015**

CWPQuestions@sled.sc.gov Step by Step on How to Apply Online (SLED)

23-31-215 (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except subject to subsection (B), SLED must issue a permit, which is no larger than three and one-half inches by three inches in size, to carry a concealable weapon to a resident or qualified nonresident who is at least **eighteen years of age** and who is not prohibited by state law from possessing the weapon……. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594)

Apply or Renew Online

SLED has implement a new online CWP registration and electronic fingerprinting capture system that will be available starting January 8th, 2019. This phase will allow applicants for a **NEW** SC CWP to begin the application online and set up an appointment at an available IdentoGo site. At the IdentoGo site they can submit their CWP application documentation and have their fingerprints taken and sent to SLED electronically. SLED will continue to process all submitted applications received from the IdentoGo appointments made **online** and any applications made by **mail.**

Apply Renew by Mail

All of the following is listed on the SC application. The **Application** can be downloaded or printed from the SLED Web Site**.**

Instructions- Review Carefully Before Application Submission:

For questions about the CWP application process, forms, or if you need information on state laws and regulations, please visit **Here**.

Processing time may be up to 90 days. A renewal application should be mailed 90-120 days prior to permit expiration.

- Processing time may be up to 90 days. A renewal application should be mailed 90-120 days prior to permit expiration.
- Applicants must submit a good quality photocopy of their state issued driver's license or officially issued identification card.
- Resident aliens must provide a copy of their alien card from the Department of Homeland Security.
- Qualified nonresident applicants must submit a completed Real Property Tax Form (SLED Form R-168).

23-31-215 – **States:** (a)(6) SLED may not charge a fee of any kind for a concealable weapon permit. A Police Agency can charge no more than $5 for fingerprints.

The following only apply to NEW permit applications:

- Applicants must submit an original completed, signed, and dated application. The CWP instructor must also sign the application. **SLED Sponsored CWP Courses**
- Applicants must submit two (2) complete, legible sets of fingerprint cards.
- Active duty military applicants must submit military orders. Retired or former military applicants must submit a copy of their DD214.
- Retired law enforcement officers exempt from paying the fee must submit proof of retirement benefits/pension documentation.
- Active/retired South Carolina law enforcement officers exempt from training must submit current legal and firearm training documentation. Out-of-state retired law enforcement officers (or those whose certification has expired) must submit proof of graduation from a federal or state academy that included firearms training as a graduation requirement.
- CWP training courses must have been completed within three years of filing the application.
- Training date, instructor certification number, and student number must be entered onto the application.
- You must submit a signed copy of the SLED CWP Instructor/Student Checklist with your application.

Permit are valid for 5 years

First Time Applicants Mail Forms to:	Renewal Applicants Mail To:
CWP Application, SLED Regulatory, PO Box 21398, Columbia, SC 29221	SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Attention CWP Renewal PO Box 21398 Columbia, SC 29221

Training Requirements

23-31-210. **(4)** "Proof of training" means an original document or certified copy of the document supplied by an applicant that certifies that he is either:

(a) a person who, within three years before filing an application, has successfully completed a basic or advanced handgun education course offered by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency or a nationally recognized organization that promotes gun safety. This education course must include, but is not limited to:

(i) information on the statutory and case law of this State relating to handguns and to the use of deadly force;

(ii) information on handgun use and safety;

(iii) information on the proper storage practice for handguns with an emphasis on storage practices that reduces the possibility of accidental injury to a child;

(iv) the actual firing of the handgun in the presence of the instructor, provided that a minimum of twenty-five rounds must be fired;

(v) properly securing a firearm in a holster;

(vi) 'cocked and locked' carrying of a firearm;

(vii) how to respond to a person who attempts to take your firearm from your holster; and

(viii) deescalation techniques and strategies.

(b) a person who demonstrates any of the following must comply with the provisions of sub item (a)(i) only:

(i) a person who demonstrates the completion of basic military training provided by any branch of the United States military who produces proof of his military service through the submission of a DD214 form;

(ii) a retired law enforcement officer who produces proof that he is a graduate of the Criminal Justice Academy or that he was a law enforcement officer prior to the requirement for graduation from the Criminal Justice Academy; or

(iii) a retired state or federal law enforcement officer who produces proof of graduation from a federal or state academy that includes firearms training as a graduation requirement.

(c) an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or another SLED approved competent national organization that promotes the safe use of handguns;

(d) a person who can demonstrate to the Director of SLED or his designee that he has a proficiency in both the use of handguns and state laws pertaining to handguns;

(e) an active duty police handgun instructor;

(f) a person who has a SLED certified or approved competitive handgun shooting classification; or

(g) a member of the active or reserve military, or a member of the National Guard.

SLED shall promulgate regulations containing general guidelines for courses and qualifications for instructors which would satisfy the requirements of this item. For purposes of sub items (a) and (b), "proof of training" is not satisfied unless the organization and its instructors meet or exceed the guidelines and qualifications contained in the regulations promulgated by SLED pursuant to this item. 2021 Act No. 66,

23-31-215 SLED Must Provide Free Training

(V)(1) The State Law Enforcement Division shall provide a statewide concealed weapon permit training course that satisfies the proof of training requirement for the issuance of a concealed weapon permit. SLED may not charge participants a fee of any kind for the concealed weapon permit training course provided for in this subsection. SLED may contract with private certified concealed weapon permit training class instructors or local law enforcement to provide the course or SLED itself may provide the course.

(2) The training course must be offered in every county in South Carolina at least twice per month. If demand exceeds the capacity of the training course in any county, SLED shall provide additional classes until there exists a sufficient number of classes offered at least twice a month to meet the demand for training in each respective county. If SLED is unable to contract with a certified concealed weapon permit training class instructor or local law enforcement in any county, SLED must conduct the training class for that county.

(3) This program does not prohibit any certified concealed weapon permit training class instructors from providing their own training classes and charging participants a fee. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594)

SLED Sponsored CWP Courses

Non-Resident Permits

If you own property in SC you can apply for a Non-Resident Permit/License. Non-Residents must fill out this **Form** and have the Assessor sign it to show you own property. Then follow the Application process as spelled out in the Resident Permit Section.

If you are Military stationed in SC you can apply. See Resident section above for details.

To Renew: See Resident Permit Section

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

23-31-210. Definitions as Used in This Article:

(5) "**Concealable weapon**" means a firearm having a length of less than twelve inches measured along its greatest dimension that may be carried openly on one's person or in a manner that is hidden from public view in normal wear of clothing except when needed for self-defense, defense of others, and the protection of real or personal property. 2021 Act No. 66 (H.3094),

23-31-215. **(M)** A permit issued pursuant to this section does not authorize a permit holder to carry a concealable weapon into any place listed in Section 16-23-20(A) except as permitted by law.

Except as provided in Section 16-23-20(A)(11), a person who willfully violates a provision of this subsection may be charged with a violation of Section 16-23-20 and in addition to the penalties provided in Section 16-23-20, at the discretion of the court, may have his permit revoked for up to five years.

Nothing contained in this subsection may be construed to alter or affect the provisions of Sections 10-11-320, 16-23-420, 16-23-430, 16-23-465, 44-23-1080, 44-52-165, and 51-3-145.

(O)(1) A permit issued pursuant to this article is not required for a person:

(a) carrying a self-defense device generally considered to be nonlethal including the substance commonly referred to as "pepper gas"; or

(b) carrying a concealable weapon in a manner not prohibited by law.

(2) The availability of a permit to carry a concealable weapon under this section must not be construed to prohibit the permitless transport or carrying of a firearm in a vehicle or on or about one's person, whether openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded, in a manner not prohibited by law. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594)

16-23-20. Unlawful Carrying of Handgun; Exceptions.

(A) It is unlawful, whether or not the person has a concealed weapon permit, for anyone to carry about the person any handgun, whether concealed or not, unless otherwise specifically authorized by law into a:

(1) law enforcement, correctional, or detention facility;

(2) courthouse, courtroom, or other publicly owned building, whether owned by the State, a county, a municipality, or other political subdivision, where court is held and during the time that court is in session;

(3) polling place on election days;

(4) office of or business meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality,

or special purpose district;

(5) school or college athletic event not related to firearms;

(6) daycare facility or preschool facility;

(7) place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law;

(8) church or other established religious sanctuary unless express permission is given by the appropriate church official or governing body;

(9) hospital, medical clinic, doctor's office, or any other facility where medical services or procedures are performed, unless expressly authorized by the appropriate entity;

(10) residence or dwelling place of another person without the express permission of the owner or person in legal control or possession of the residence or dwelling place, as appropriate; or

(11) place clearly marked with a sign prohibiting the carrying of a concealable weapon on the premises in compliance with Section 23-31-235. A person who violates a provision of this item, whether the violation is willful or not, only may be charged with a violation of Section 16-11-620 and must not be charged with or penalized for a violation of this subsection.

(B) The provisions of subsection (A) do not apply to:

(1) regular, salaried law enforcement officers, and reserve police officers of a state agency, municipality, or county of the State, uncompensated Governor's constables, law enforcement officers or other authorized personnel of the federal government or other states when they are carrying out official duties while in this State, deputy enforcement officers of the Natural Resources Enforcement Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and retired commissioned law enforcement officers;

(2) employees of a law enforcement facility, correctional facility, detention facility, or courthouse while in the course of employment and where the employment requires the possession of a firearm;

(3) members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard, organized reserves, or the State Militia when on duty;

(4) subject to the limitations of Section 23-31-600(D), persons who meet the definition of "qualified retired law enforcement officer" contained in Section 23-31-600; or

(5) a person carrying as authorized by Section 23-31-240.

(C) Nothing contained in this section may be construed to alter or affect the provisions of Sections 10-11-320, 16-23-30, 16-23-420, 16-23-430, 16-23-465, 44-23-1080, 44-52-165, and 51-3-145, or the ability for a person to obtain a concealed weapon permit as provided for in Section 23-31-215.

(D) Notwithstanding any provision in this section, a person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from carrying a firearm may lawfully store a firearm anywhere in a vehicle whether occupied or unoccupied.

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 3

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23-31-520. Power to Regulate Public Use of Firearms; Confiscation of Firearms or Ammunition.

(A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, a governing body of a county, municipality, or political subdivision may temporarily restrict the otherwise lawful open carrying of a firearm on public property when a governing body issues a permit to allow a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event. However, if a permit is not applied for and issued prior to an event as described in this subsection, a county, municipality, or political subdivision may not exercise the provisions of this subsection. A person or entity hosting a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event must post signs at the event when open carrying is allowed or not allowed at the event.

(B) A governing body exercising the authority granted to it pursuant to this section must be specific in the area, duration, and manner in which the restriction is imposed and must provide prior notice of the restriction when feasible. In no event may the restriction extend beyond the beginning and conclusion of the event or beyond the location of the event. The duration of an event may not be scheduled for such a length of time as to frustrate the intent of this section.

(C) A county, municipality, or political subdivision may not confiscate a firearm or ammunition for a violation of this section unless incident to an otherwise lawful arrest." 2021 Act No. 66 (H.3094), Section 8

16-23-420. Possession of Firearm on School Property; Concealed Weapons.

(A) It is unlawful for a person to possess a firearm of any kind on any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, other post-secondary institution, or in any publicly owned building, without the express permission of the authorities in charge of the premises or property. The provisions of this subsection related to any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, or other post-secondary institution, do not apply to when the firearm remains inside an attended or locked motor vehicle and is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle.

(B) It is unlawful for a person to enter the premises or property described in subsection (A) and to display, brandish, or threaten others with a firearm.

(C) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(D) This section does not apply to a guard, law enforcement officer, or member of the armed forces, or student of military science. A married student residing in an apartment provided by the private or public school whose presence with a ~~weapon~~ firearm in or around a particular building is authorized by persons legally responsible for the security of the buildings is also exempted from the provisions of this section.

(E) For purposes of this section, the terms "premises" and "property" do not include state or locally owned or maintained roads, streets, or rights-of-way of them, running through or adjacent to premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, or other post-secondary institution, which are open full time to public vehicular traffic. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 6.

(F) This section does not apply to a person when upon any premises, property, or building that is part of an interstate highway rest area facility. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 6

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

16-23-430. Carrying Weapon on School Property

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person, except state, county, or municipal law enforcement officers or personnel authorized by school officials, to carry on his person, while on any elementary or secondary school property, a knife, with a blade over two inches long, a blackjack, a metal pipe or pole, firearms, or any other type of weapon, device, or object which may be used to inflict bodily injury or death.

(B) This section does not apply when the weapon remains inside an attended or locked motor vehicle and is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 7

23-31-600 **(D)** The restrictions contained in Section 23-31-220 are applicable to a person carrying a concealed weapon pursuant to this section. Carrying a concealed weapon into the residence or dwelling place of another person is prohibited without the expressed permission of the owner or person in legal control or possession of the premises, as appropriate. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 13

Public/Charter Buses off Limits

58-23-1820. Definitions.

For purposes of this article:

(a) "passenger" means any individual served by a public transportation provider including charter bus activities;

(b) "bus" means any passenger bus or other motor vehicle having a seating capacity of not less than ten passengers operated by a public transportation provider for the purpose of carrying passengers, including charter passengers;

(c) "public transportation" is as defined in item (10) of Section 58-25-20;

(d) "public transportation provider" means any operator who offers or delivers public transportation;

(e) "public transportation vehicle" means any configuration of equipment for the purpose of providing public transportation. History: 1986 Act No. 405, Eff May 12, 1986.

58-23-1830. General Prohibitions; Persons Who May Be Refused Transportation; Violations and Penalties.

(a) It is unlawful for any passenger to commit any of the following acts in a bus or any other public transportation vehicle:

(3) carry or possess any weapon, explosives, acids, other dangerous articles, or live animals, except for a seeing eye dog or a hearing ear dog properly harnessed and accompanied by its owner, small animals properly packaged, or weapons carried by or animals used by a law enforcement official;

(d) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction for a first offense must be imprisoned for not more than thirty days or fined not more than two hundred dollars, for a second offense, imprisoned for not more than sixty days or fined not more than five hundred dollars, or both, and for a third or subsequent offense, imprisoned for not more than ninety days or fined not more than one thousand dollars, or both. History: 1986 Act No. 405, May 12, 1986.

Section 23-31-232 Carrying Concealable Weapons on Premises of Certain Schools Leased by Churches.

(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon express permission given by the appropriate church official or governing body, any person may carry a concealable weapon, whether concealed or openly carried, on the leased premises of an elementary or secondary school if a church leases the school premises or areas within the school for church services or official church activities.

(1) The provisions contained in this section apply:

(a) only during those times that the church has the use and enjoyment of the school property pursuant to its lease with the school; and

(b) only to the areas of the school within the lease agreement, any related parking areas, or any reasonable ingress or egress between these areas.

(2) A school district may request that a church utilizing school property for its services disclose and notify the school district if persons are, or may be, carrying concealed weapons on the school property.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply during any time students are present as a result of a curricular or extracurricular school-sponsored activity that is taking place on the school property.

(B) For the purposes of the Federal Gun-Free School Zone Act (18 U.S.C. Section 921(a)), the buildings and grounds of a school that are leased to a church are not considered a school during the hours that the church has the use and enjoyment of the school property pursuant to this section." 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 11

10-11-320 Carrying or Discharging Firearm; Exception.

(B) This section does not apply to a person who possesses firearms and is authorized to park on the capitol grounds or in the parking garage below the capitol grounds. The firearm must remain locked in the person's vehicle while on or below the capitol grounds and must be stored in a place in the vehicle that is not readily accessible to any person upon entry to or below the capitol grounds. 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 2

23-31-245. Openly Carrying a Weapon

A person openly carrying a weapon in accordance with this article does not give a law enforcement officer reasonable suspicion or probable cause to search, detain, or arrest the person. This article does not prevent a law enforcement officer from searching, detaining, or arresting a person when he has a particularized and objective basis for suspecting the particular person stopped of criminal activity. A person merely carrying a weapon in accordance with this article is not sufficient to justify a search, detention, or arrest.

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 19

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

Parking Lot Storage Law

16-23-420 Possession of Firearm on School Property

(A) It is unlawful for a person to possess a firearm of any kind on any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, other post-secondary institution, or in any publicly owned building, without the express permission of the authorities in charge of the premises or property. The provisions of this subsection related to any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, or other post-secondary institution, **do not apply to when the firearm remains inside an attended or locked motor vehicle** and is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle.

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 6

Note: 7/9/24 SC AG Opinion states, "First, we reaffirm this Office's prior determination that a court would likely find the prohibition against firearms in any publicly owned building under section 16-23 -420(A) does not extend to the building's surrounding premises unless it is owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, or other post-secondary institution." So on any educational property the firearm must stay within the vehicle but Public Parking lots and Parking Garages are the same as other public property and carry is legal. We recommend you read the opinion.

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

"**YES**"

23-31-220 Right to Allow or Permit Concealed Weapons Upon Premises; Signs.

(A) Nothing contained in this article shall in any way be construed to limit, diminish, or otherwise infringe upon:

(1) the right of a public or private employer to prohibit a person who is otherwise not prohibited by law from possessing a handgun from carrying a concealable weapon, whether concealed or openly carried, upon the premises of the business or workplace or while using any machinery, vehicle, or equipment owned or operated by the business; or

(2) the right of a private property owner or person in legal possession or control to allow or prohibit the carrying of a concealable weapon, whether concealed or openly carried, upon his premises.

(B) The posting by the employer, owner, or person in legal possession or control of a sign stating "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" shall constitute notice to a person that the employer, owner, or person in legal possession or control requests that concealable weapons, whether concealed or openly carried, not be brought upon the premises or into the workplace. A person who knowingly brings a concealable weapon, whether concealed or openly carried, onto the premises or workplace in violation of the provisions of this paragraph may be charged with a violation of Section 16-11-620. In addition to the penalties provided in Section 16-11-620, a person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of the provisions of this paragraph must have his permit revoked for a period of one year. The prohibition contained in this section does not apply to persons specified in Section 16-23-20, (B)(1).

(C) In addition to the provisions of subsection (B), a public or private employer or the owner of a business may post a sign regarding the prohibition or allowance on those premises of concealable weapons, whether concealed or openly carried, which may be unique to that business.

(D) This section must not be construed to limit an individual from carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Section 51-3-145(G). **Note** - Sec. D of 51-3-145(G) covers long guns in parks. 2024 No. 111 (H.3594), Sec. 10

23-31-235. **Sign Requirements.**

(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any requirement of or allowance for the posting of signs prohibiting the carrying of a concealable weapon, weather concealed or openly carried, upon any premises shall only be satisfied by a sign expressing the prohibition in both written language interdict and universal sign language.

(B) All signs must be posted at each entrance into a building where carrying of a concealable weapon and must be

(1) clearly visible from outside the building;

(2) eight inches wide by twelve inches tall in size;

(3) contain the words "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" in black one-inch tall uppercase type at the bottom of the sign and centered between the lateral edges of the sign;

(4) contain a black silhouette of a handgun inside a circle seven inches in diameter with a diagonal line that runs from the lower left to the upper right at a forty-five-degree angle from the horizontal;

(5) a diameter of a circle; and

(6) placed not less than forty inches and not more than sixty inches from the bottom of the building's entrance door.

(C) If the premises where concealable weapons are prohibited does not have doors, then the signs contained in subsection (A) must be:

(1) thirty-six inches wide by forty-eight inches tall in size;

(2) contain the words "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" in black three- inch tall uppercase type at the bottom of the sign and centered between the lateral edges of the sign;

(3) contain a black silhouette of a handgun inside a circle thirty-four inches in diameter with a diagonal line that is two inches wide and runs from the lower left to the upper right at a forty-five degree angle from the horizontal and must be a diameter of a circle whose circumference is two inches wide;

(4) placed not less than forty inches and not more than ninety-six inches above the ground;

(5) posted in sufficient quantities to be clearly visible from any point of entry onto the premises.

(D) Nothing in this section prevents a public or private employer or owner of a business from posting a sign regarding the prohibition or allowance on those premises of concealable weapons, whether concealed or openly carried, which may be unique to that business." 2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 12

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**.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

"NO" **23-31-215**

South Carolina previously was a Must Inform state. When the Permitless Carry law was passed that part of the law was repealed. **H 3594 2024**

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

***State Parks:** **YES** **51-3-145. (G)**

State/National Forests: **YES** **51-3-145. (G)**

State WMA: **YES** **123-203 (B)**

Road Side Rest Areas: **YES** **16-23-420** **(F)**

***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

Anyone who can legally possess a concealable firearm can carry concealed or openly in South Carolina without any type of carry permit. You should carry your state issued Drivers License or State issued photo ID

23-31-215 **Issuance of Permits**

O)(1) A permit issued pursuant to this article is not required for a person:

(a) carrying a self-defense device generally considered to be nonlethal including the substance commonly referred to as "pepper gas"; or

(b) carrying a concealable weapon in a manner not prohibited by law.

(2) The availability of a permit to carry a concealable weapon under this section must not be construed to prohibit the permitless transport or carrying of a firearm in a vehicle or on or about one's person, whether openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded, in a manner not prohibited by law.

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Sections 9, 21, and 23

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Open Carry is legal for any one who can legally possess a firearm under State and Federal Laws.

23-31-215 Issuance of Permits

O)(1) A permit issued pursuant to this article is not required for a person:

(a) carrying a self-defense device generally considered to be nonlethal including the substance commonly referred to as "pepper gas"; or

(b) carrying a concealable weapon in a manner not prohibited by law.

(2) The availability of a permit to carry a concealable weapon under this section must not be construed to prohibit the permitless transport or carrying of a firearm in a vehicle or on or about one's person, whether openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded, in a manner not prohibited by law.

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Sections 9, 21, and 23

State Preemption

23-31-510. Regulation of ownership, transfer, or possession of firearm or ammunition; discharge on landowner's own property.

No governing body of any county, municipality, or other political subdivision in the State may enact or promulgate any regulation or ordinance that regulates or attempts to regulate:

(1) the transfer, ownership, possession, carrying, or transportation of firearms, ammunition, components of firearms, or any combination of these things; or

(2) a landowner discharging a firearm on the landowner's property to protect the landowner's family, employees, the general public, or the landowner's property from animals that the landowner reasonably believes pose a direct threat or danger to the landowner's property, people on the landowner's property, or the general public. For purposes of this item, the landowner's property must be a parcel of land comprised of at least twenty-five contiguous acres. Any ordinance regulating the discharge of firearms that does not specifically provide for an exclusion pursuant to this item is unenforceable as it pertains to an incident described in this item; otherwise, the ordinance is enforceable. 2008 Act No. 220, Section 1

23-31-520. Power to Regulate Public Use of Firearms; Confiscation of Firearms or Ammunition.

(A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, a governing body of a county, municipality, or political subdivision may temporarily restrict the otherwise lawful open carrying of a firearm on public property when a governing body issues a permit to allow a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event. However, if a permit is not applied for and issued prior to an event as described in this subsection, a county, municipality, or political subdivision may not exercise the provisions of this subsection. A person or

entity hosting a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event must post signs at the event when open carrying is allowed or not allowed at the event.

(B) A governing body exercising the authority granted to it pursuant to this section must be specific in the area, duration, and manner in which the restriction is imposed and must provide prior notice of the restriction when feasible. In no event may the restriction extend beyond the beginning and conclusion of the event or beyond the location of the event. The duration of an event may not be scheduled for such a length of time as to frustrate the intent of this section.

(C) A county, municipality, or political subdivision may not confiscate a firearm or ammunition for a violation of this section unless incident to an otherwise lawful arrest." 2021 Act No. 66 (H.3094), Section 8

Deadly Force Laws

16-11-420 thru 16-11-450. "Protection of Persons and Property Act".

16-11-420 Intent and Findings of General Assembly.
16-11-430 Definitions.
16-11-440 Presumption of Reasonable Fear of Imminent Peril When Using Deadly Force Against Another Unlawfully Entering Residence, Occupied Vehicle or Place of Business.
16-11-450 Immunity from Criminal Prosecution and Civil Actions; Law Enforcement Officer Exception; Costs.

Also this court case.

State of South Carolina
State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
Use of Firearms or Other Weapons
(Taken from the SLED Web site on Firearms)

Use of Deadly Force

State v. Fuller, 297 S.C. 440, 377 S.E.2d 328 (1989) sets forth the elements of self-defense in South Carolina. These are:

1. you must be without fault in bringing on the difficulty;
2. you must actually believe you are in imminent danger of loss of life or serious bodily injury *or* actually be in such danger;
3. if you believe you are in such danger, you must use deadly force only if a reasonable or prudent man of ordinary firmness and courage would have believed himself to be in such danger, or, if you actually were in such danger, the circumstances were such as would warrant a man of ordinary prudence, firmness and courage to strike the fatal blow in order to save yourself from serious bodily harm or losing your own life;
4. you had no other probable means of avoiding the danger of losing your own life or sustaining serious bodily injury than to act as you did in the particular instance.

SC Supreme Ct. Self Defense Ruing - State v. Jones Appellate Case No. 2014-002123 (5/16)

Defense of Others

In *State v. Hays, 121 S.C. 163, 168, 113 S.E. 362, 363 (1922)*, the Court approved a "defense of others" instruction, as follows:

The right to take the life of an assailant during an unprovoked assault extends to any relative, friend, or bystander if the use of deadly force is necessary to save the victim wrongfully assaulted from imminent

danger of being murdered by the assailant, if the assault is malicious and unprovoked and with a deadly weapon, with the apparent malicious intention to take the life of the victim and thereby commit murder, and if such murder is imminent, then any relative, friend, or bystander has the right to take the life of the assailant if necessary to prevent such murder, provided there was no other reasonable means of escape for the victim so assailed, and provided both the person assailed and the person coming to his defense were without legal fault in bringing on the difficulty.

South Carolina has adopted the so-called "alter-ego" rule with respect to the defense of others. In *State v. Cook, 78 S.C. 253, 59 S.E. 862 (1907),* the Court summarized this rule:

If you intervene on behalf of another, you will not be allowed the benefit of the plea of self-defense, unless that plea would have been available to the person you assisted if he himself had done the killing.

In other words, the person intervening is deemed to "stand in the shoes" of the person on whose behalf he is intervening. If that individual "had the right to defend himself, then the intervening party is also protected by that right. If, however, the party [victim] had no right to use force…then the intervening party will also assume the liability of the person on whose behalf he interfered." *McAninch and Fairey, p. 494.*

The "defense of others" rules apply to "any relative, friend or bystanders…" *State v. Hays, supra.* The same principles of retreat and withdrawal apply as if the individual himself were acting in self-defense rather than on behalf of someone else. If there was no duty to retreat by the person being assisted, there is no duty imposed upon the intervenor.

Defense of Property "…in the protection of one's dwelling, only such force must be used as is necessary, or apparently necessary, to a reasonably prudent man. Any greater expenditure cannot be justifiable and is therefore punishable. *State v. Hibler, 79 S.C. 170, 60 S.E. 438 (1907).*

"[t]he weight of modern authority limits deadly force in a defense of a dwelling to situations in which the householder reasonably believes that the intruder intends to commit a felony or only when deadly force would be authorized by the law of self-defense." *McAninch and Fairey.*

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES **(Unless Posted)** **16-23-465**

(A) In addition to the penalties provided for by Sections 16-11-330, 16-11-620, 23-31-220, and Article 1, Chapter 23, Title 16, a person convicted of knowingly carrying a firearm into a business which sells alcoholic liquor, beer, or wine for consumption on the premises is guilty of a misdemeanor~~,~~ and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

In addition to the penalties described above, a person who violates this section while carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 must have his concealed weapon permit revoked for a period of five years.

(B)(1) This section does not apply to a person otherwise lawfully carrying a firearm who does not consume alcoholic liquor, beer, or wine while carrying the concealable weapon on the business' premises. A person who violates this item may be charged with a violation of subsection (A).

(2) A property owner, holder of a lease interest, or operator of a business may prohibit the carrying of concealable weapons into the business by posting a "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" sign

in compliance with Section 23-31-235. A person who carries a concealable weapon into a business with a sign posted in compliance with Section 23-31-235 may be charged with a violation of subsection (A).

(3) A property owner, holder of a lease interest, or operator of a business may request that a person carrying a concealable weapon leave the business' premises, or any portion of the premises, or request that a person carrying a concealable weapon remove the concealable weapon from the business' premises, or any portion of the premises. A person carrying a concealable weapon who refuses to leave a business' premises or portion of the premises when requested or refuses to remove the concealable weapon from a business' premises or portion of the premises when requested may be charged with a violation of subsection (A).

2024 Act No. 111 (H.3594), Section 8

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

Chemical Sprays:

23-31-215 Issuance of Permits

(O)(1) A permit issued pursuant to this article is not required for a person:

(a) carrying a self-defense device generally considered to be nonlethal including the substance commonly referred to as "pepper gas"; or

(b) carrying a concealable weapon in a manner not prohibited by law.

(2) The availability of a permit to carry a concealable weapon under this section must not be construed to prohibit the permitless transport or carrying of a firearm in a vehicle or on or about one's person, whether openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded, in a manner not prohibited by law. 2024 No. 111 (H.3594), Sections 9

LEOSA State Information

23-31-600. SC Agency can issue Retired Credentials

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

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

SC AG Opinion Off-Duty Police in Schools

SC AG Opinion on Columbia Ordinance on Carrying Firearms Within 1000 Foot of School (12/2019)

SC AG Opinion on Columbia Ordinance on Extreme Risk Protection Orders (12/2019)

SC AG Opinion – Carry in Publicly Own Parking Lots and Parking Garages. (7/9/2024)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Link to State Statutes

Airport Carry: If publically owned Not in Terminal. Parking Lot OK (Section 16-23-420(a))
It is difficult to know who owns the airport. Handgunlaw.us recommends not carrying in any Terminal.

Training Valid for: **3 Years**

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

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

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

State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute: **Section 23-31-215.**

State Firearm Laws: **23-31-10 thru 23-31-600 & 16-23-210 thru 16-23-1060**

State Deadly Force Laws: **16-11-410 thru 16-11-450.**

State Knife Laws: **16-23-405 & 16-23-430**

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: **16-23-470**

Body Armor Laws: **16-3-1080.**

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **NO** **23-31-210.**

State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s: **No Statute Found**

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? **YES** **Section 16-23-20**

Notes

What Does SC Consider A Loaded Firearm?

50-11-760. Hunting from Certain Public Roads and Railroad Rights-of-Way Prohibited; Definitions; Penalties.

(B)(2) For purposes of this section, loaded means a weapon within which any ammunition is contained.

2003 Act No. 50, Section 1..

State Emergency Powers

23-31-520. Temporary Restriction of Lawful Open Carrying of a Firearm on Public Property During Certain Events; Notice; Confiscation of Firearms or Ammunition.

(A) Notwithstanding another provision of law, a governing body of a county, municipality, or political subdivision may temporarily restrict the otherwise lawful open carrying of a firearm on public property when a governing body issues a permit to allow a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event. However, if a permit is not applied for and issued prior to an event as described in this subsection, a county, municipality, or political subdivision may not exercise the provisions of this subsection. A person or entity hosting a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event must post signs at the event when open carrying is allowed or not allowed at the event.

(B) A governing body exercising the authority granted to it pursuant to this section must be specific in the area, duration, and manner in which the restriction is imposed and must provide prior notice of the restriction when feasible. In no event may the restriction extend beyond the beginning and conclusion of the event or beyond the location of the event. The duration of an event may not be scheduled for such a length of time as to frustrate the intent of this section.

(C) A county, municipality, or political subdivision may not confiscate a firearm or ammunition for a violation of this section unless incident to an otherwise lawful arrest. 2021 Act No. 66 (H.3094), Section 8

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.

South Carolina 18 Y/O 16-23-30

This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting an unloaded and secured handgun 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

Format Starting March 2018





Pre March 2018 Format

Updates to this Page

91 Links*

Archive of Previous Updates 3

9/6/2024 – 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.

3/7/2025 – All Links Checked.

5/4/2025 – Minnesota Now Honors South Carolina Permit. Map Updated.

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 Published 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 – SLED Redesigned Their Website Moving All Documents to New Links. All Links Updated. A FAQ Page Was Not Found. SC does not mention Reciprocity and Only Permitless Carry.

6/7/2026 – All Links Checked.

9/5/2026 – All Links Checked.