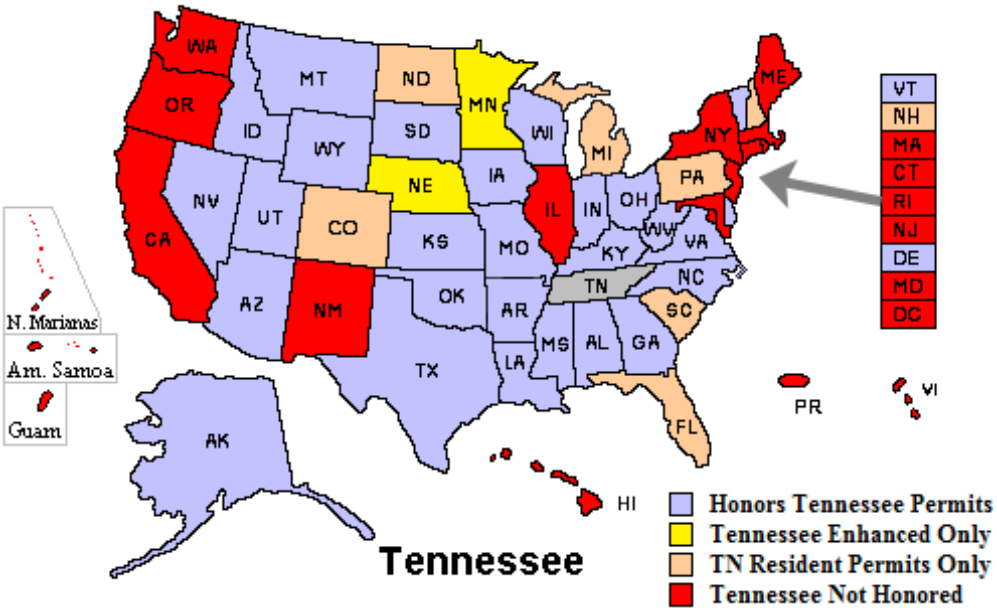
Tennessee

Must Inform Officer Immediately: NO

Permitless Carry/Shall Issue (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.

Tennessee CCW Links√

State CCW Site

Concealed Application

Apply/Renew Online
Scroll Down

Enhanced/Renewal/Life Time Application

Types of TN Permits

How To Apply for Permit

State FAQ Site

State Statutes

State Admin Rules

State Reciprocity Info

State Attorney General

TN CCW Laws

Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

Last Updated: 9/16/2026

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

Tennessee honors all other states Permit/Licenses.

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

Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

Notice: 1/1/20 - Tennessee now has a two tier permit system. Their Regular Permit which is now called their "Enhanced Permit" and their "Concealed Handgun Permit" that takes less training and will most likely not be honored in all states their Enhanced Permit is Honored. Handgunlaw.us will continue to keep the map above updated if changes occur in how states honor the different Tennessee Permits.

39-17-1351. Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit Handgun Carry Permits.

(r) (1) A facially valid handgun permit, firearms permit, weapons permit or license issued by another state shall be valid in this state according to its terms and shall be treated as if it is a handgun permit issued by this state; provided, however, this subsection (r) 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.

(2) For a person to lawfully carry a handgun in this state based upon a permit or license issued in another state, the person must be in possession of the permit or license at all times the person carries a handgun in this state.

(3) (A) The commissioner of safety shall enter into written reciprocity agreements with other states that require the execution of the agreements. The commissioner of safety shall prepare and publicly publish a current list of states honoring permits issued by the state of Tennessee and shall make the list available to anyone upon request. The commissioner of safety shall also prepare and publicly publish a current list of states who, after inquiry by the commissioner, refuse to enter into a reciprocity agreement with this state or honor enhanced handgun carry permits issued by this state. To the extent that any state may impose conditions in the reciprocity agreements, the commissioner of safety shall publish those conditions as part of the list. If another state imposes conditions on Tennessee permit holders in a reciprocity agreement, the conditions shall also become a part of the agreement and apply to the other state's permit holders when they carry a handgun in this state..

(B) If a person with a handgun permit from another state decides to become a resident of Tennessee, the person must obtain a Tennessee handgun permit within six (6) months of establishing residency in Tennessee. The permit may be issued based on the person having a permit from another state provided the other state has substantially similar permit eligibility requirements as this state. However, if during the six-month period the person applies for a handgun permit in this state and the application is denied, the person shall not be allowed to carry a handgun in this state based upon the other state's permit. 2025, ch. 356, §§ 1-3

Permitless Carry

39-17-1307 - Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon

(g) It is an exception to the application of subsection (a) that a person is carrying, whether openly or concealed, a handgun and:

(1)(A) The person is at least eighteen 18 years of age;

(2) The person lawfully possesses the handgun; and

(3) The person is in a place where the person is lawfully present. 2025, ch. 513, §§ 6, 7.

Note: The Tennessee Firearms Association has put out an analysis of the Permitless Carry Law. Handgunlaw.us recommends you carry your state issued ID when carrying under Permitless Carry. Some states require you carry it. Also info from Memphis PD: Permitless Handgun Carry Public Information Leaflet

Additional Places Off Limits to those Carrying under Permitless Carry

1. Buildings Posted with Concealed Firearms by Permit Only
2. State/National Parks **3.** Campgrounds **4.** Greenways **5**. Nature Trails

39-17-1311 - Carrying Weapons on Public Parks, Playgrounds, Civic Centers and Other Public Recreational Buildings and Grounds

(a) It is an offense for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, with the intent to go armed, any weapon prohibited by § 39-17-1302(a), not used solely for instructional, display or sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in or on the grounds of any public park, playground, civic center or other building

facility, area or property owned, used or operated by any municipal, county or state government, or instrumentality thereof, for recreational purposes.

(b)(1) Subsection (a) shall not apply to the following persons:

(H)(i) Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 or § 39-17-1366, while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality, or instrumentality of the state, a county, or municipality; 2026, ch. 892, § 11.

(**Note:** These two statute cover the issuing of an Enhanced or Concealed Tennessee Carry Permit) while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality, or instrumentality of the state, a county, or municipality;

Note: To carry in some places you have to have a permit Tennessee Issues or Honors. Be aware that there are places in Tennessee that still require a permit to legally carry a firearm. It is up to you to know the law.

How to Apply for a Permit

Note: **HB 1264** **renamed the present Tennessee Permit as an Enhanced Permit.** "The state will create the **"Concealed Handgun Carry Permit"** that cost less and has less training requirements."

Concealed Handgun Carry Permit

- 2019 Public Chapter 479
- **Must carry Concealed at all times.**
- The fee for the permit will be $65.
- Training requirements.
- Must fill out Proof of Redidency/Citizenship form to submit along with training proof.
- The card will have an eight (8) year expiration date.
- **May not carry at any school or university. (Public or Private)**
- Name based background check run every 4 years.

Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit

- The first step of applying for an original Tennessee handgun carry permit (Now called the Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit) would be to complete the application online under the Handgun Permit tab.
- Once the application has been completed, if you are not otherwise exempt, you must attend a Tennessee handgun safety course.
    - A list of certified handgun safety schools can be found through online services under the Handgun Permit tab.
    - Click here for a list of acceptable exemptions from the handgun safety course.
- Once the course has been completed, you will go to a Driver Services Center. At the Driver Services Center:
    - Pay application fee of $100 ($65 with active military ID or DD-214 listing honorable discharge) for an eight (8) year permit
    - Provide CERTIFIED PROOF of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residency (Photocopies will not be accepted)

- Provide proof of full SSN
- Have photo taken
- If you do not currently have a Tennessee driver license, you must submit **two** proofs of Tennessee residency with your name and resident address - NO P.O. BOXES (Documents must be current and within last 4 months.)
- Present a photo ID to the Department at the time of filing the application
- Once transaction is complete, the examiner will provide you with the instructions for being fingerprinted.

- **FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**
- Incomplete applications will not be processed

All handgun permit applicants seeking a new permit must provide Proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residency.

Note: For information from the Tennessee Highway Patrol on how to apply for a Lifetime (Enhanced Only), Retired Law Enforcement Lifetime, Temporary Permit, Renewal and Upgrade to Lifetime permits or Appling Online, at Drivers Service Centers or by Mail go **"Here"**.

Processing

- Applications are received and reviewed in the Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit Office.
- Proper documentation is forwarded to three (3) different agencies: (TBI, FBI, County Sheriff).
- Upon a name search approval from TBI, the permit can be issued within ninety (90) days from date of application.
- Upon issuance, the Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit will be mailed to the applicant.
- Incomplete applications cannot be processed.
- Fees Are Non-Refundable **(Fee Chart)**

39-17-1351 Enhanced Handgun Carry Permits.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (r), any resident of Tennessee who is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident, as defined by § 55-50-102, may apply to the department of safety for an enhanced handgun carry permit. If the applicant is not prohibited from possessing a firearm in this state pursuant to § 39-17-1307(b), 18 U.S.C. § 922(g), or any other state or federal law, and the applicant otherwise meets all of the requirements of this section, the department shall issue a permit to the applicant; provided:

(1) The applicant is at least eighteen 18 years or age;

(2) The applicant is at least eighteen (18) years of age; and 2025, ch. 356, §§ 1-3

Lifetime License

39-17-1351 Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit.

(x) (1) Any resident of Tennessee who is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident, as defined by § 55-50-102, who has reached eighteen years of age, may apply to the department of safety for a lifetime enhanced handgun carry permit. If the applicant is not prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm in this state pursuant to § 39-17-1316 or § 39-17-1307(b), 18 U.S.C. § 922(g), or any other state or federal law, and the applicant otherwise meets all of the requirements of this section, the department shall issue a permit to the applicant. The lifetime enhanced handgun carry permit shall entitle the permit holder to carry any handgun or handguns the permit holder legally owns or possesses and shall entitle the permit holder to any privilege granted to enhanced handgun carry permit holders. The requirements imposed on enhanced

handgun carry permit holders by this section shall also apply to lifetime enhanced handgun carry permit holders. 2025, ch. 356, §§ 1-3

39-17-1351 Active Duty Military Personnel.

(o)(1) The permit shall be issued on a wallet-sized card of the same approximate size as is used by this state for driver licenses and shall contain only the following information concerning the permit holder:

(2) The following language must be printed on the back of the card: This permit is valid beyond the expiration date if the permit holder can provide documentation of the holder's active military status and duty station outside Tennessee. 2025, ch. 356, §§ 1-3

See Fee Chart for costs.

Protection Order Allows Concealed Carry

39-17-1365. Application for temporary handgun carry permit by person granted order of protection — Issuance of permit.

(a) A person who petitions the court and is granted an order of protection, ex parte or otherwise, pursuant to title 36, chapter 3, part 6, may apply for a temporary handgun carry permit from the department of safety within twenty-one (21) calendar days after that order of protection is granted.

(b) To be eligible to receive a temporary handgun carry permit, the person must:

(1) Apply in person to the department of safety on a temporary handgun carry permit application developed by the department;

(2) Include a certified copy of the order of protection with the application;

(3) Provide proof of the person's identity and Tennessee residency by presenting:

(A) A driver license or photo identification issued by the state of Tennessee; or

(B) Other proof satisfactory to the department showing the person's identity and residency; and

(4) Meet the qualifications for the issuance of a handgun carry permit under § 39-17-1351(c).

(c) The department of safety shall conduct a name-based criminal history check in the same manner as set forth in § 39-17-1351(n)(3) upon receiving an application for a temporary handgun carry permit under this section.

(d) If an applicant meets all the requirements of this section, the department of safety shall issue a temporary handgun carry permit to the applicant that shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days from the date of issuance.

(e) A person issued a temporary handgun carry permit under this section shall carry that permit and a copy of the protective order at all times when carrying a handgun pursuant to this section.

(f) A temporary handgun carry permit issued under this section shall only be valid in Tennessee and shall not be considered as satisfying the requirements of reciprocity with any other state firearm carry provisions.

(g) A temporary handgun carry permit issued under this section may be issued as a letter to the applicant and may be issued without the applicant's photograph.

(h) The issuance of a temporary handgun carry permit under this section does not relieve a person from complying with all requirements of § 39-17-1351 in order to be issued a handgun carry permit pursuant to that section.

(i) A temporary handgun carry permit issued under this section is subject to §§ 39-17-1352 - 39-17-1359.

Acts 2017, ch. 468, § 3

Non-Resident Permits

Tennessee will issue Non-Resident Permit/Licenses to individuals who meet the qualifications as listed below.

39-17-1351. Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit.

(r) (3)(C) (i) If a person who is a resident of and handgun permit holder in another state is employed in this state on a regular basis and desires to carry a handgun in this state, the person shall have six (6) months from the last day of the sixth month of regular employment in this state to obtain a Tennessee enhanced handgun carry permit. The permit may be issued based on the person having a permit from another state provided the other state has substantially similar permit eligibility requirements as this state. However, if during the six-month period the person applies for a handgun permit in this state and the application is denied, the person shall not be allowed to carry a handgun in this state based upon the other state's permit.

(ii) This subdivision (r)(3)(C) shall not apply if the state of residence of the person employed in Tennessee has entered into a handgun permit reciprocity agreement with this state pursuant to this subsection (r).

(iii) As used in this subdivision (r)(3)(C), "employed in this state on a regular basis" means a person has been gainfully employed in this state for at least thirty (30) hours a week for six (6) consecutive months not counting any absence from employment caused by the employee's use of sick leave, annual leave, administrative leave or compensatory time. 2025, ch. 356, §§ 1-3

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

- Any room in which judicial proceedings are in progress. 39-17-1306
- *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, college or university board of trustees, regents or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution. 39-17-1309
- It is not an offense for a nonstudent adult to possess a firearm, if such firearm is contained within a private vehicle operated by the adult and is not handled by such adult, or by any other person acting with the expresses or implied consent of such adult, while such vehicle is on school property.
- An individual, corporation, business entity or government entity or agent thereof is authorized to prohibit possession of weapons by any person otherwise authorized by this subsection, at meetings conducted by, or on premises owned, operated, managed or under control of such individual, corporation, business entity or government entity. Notice of such prohibition shall be posted in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the building, portion of the building or buildings where weapon possession is prohibited. 39-17-1359
- it is a criminal offense to possess or carry weapons, including firearms, on those portions of the property of a religious institution being used for school purposes.
- The prohibition against carrying weapons applies only to those portions of the property of the religious institution being used for school purposes.
- The prohibition against carrying a firearm on the property of a religious institution applies only while the property is being used or operated by the school. See Attorney General Opinions, 09-129 and

*See Parking Lot Storage Law Section for Storage on Public Post Secondary Education Institutes.

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.

Attorney General Opinion on Carrying in/on Property of a Church School. Complete Opinion Here.

39-17-1311. Carrying Weapons on Public Parks, Playgrounds, Civic Centers and Other Public Recreational Buildings and Grounds.

(a) It is an offense for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, with the intent to go armed, any weapon prohibited by § 39-17-1302(a), not used solely for instructional, display or sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in or on the grounds of any public park, playground, civic center or other building facility, area or property owned, used or operated by any municipal, county or state government, or instrumentality thereof, for recreational purposes.

(b)(1) Subsection (a) shall not apply to the following persons:

(H)(i) Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 or § 39-17-1366, while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality, or instrumentality of the state, a county, or municipality;

(b) (1) Subsection (a) shall not apply to the following persons:

(A) Persons employed in the army, air force, navy, coast guard or marine service of the United States or any member of the Tennessee national guard when in discharge of their official duties and acting under orders requiring them to carry arms or weapons;

(E) Any pupils who are members of the reserve officers training corps or pupils enrolled in a course of instruction or members of a club or team, and who are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their official class or team duties;

(G) A registered security guard/officer, who meets the requirements of title 62, chapter 35, while in the performance of the officer's duties;

(H) (i) Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 or § 39-17-1366,, while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality, or instrumentality of the state, a county, or municipality; **Note:** Law requires a permit to carry in place as listed in (H)(i) above.

(ii) Subdivision (b)(1)(H)(i) shall not apply if the permit holder:

(a) Possessed a handgun in the immediate vicinity of property that was, at the time of possession, in use by any board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution for the purpose of conducting an athletic event or other school-related activity on an athletic field, permanent or temporary, including but not limited to, a football or soccer field, tennis court, basketball court, track, running trail, Frisbee field, or similar multi-use field; and

(b) Knew or should have known the athletic activity or school-related activity described in subdivision (b)(1)(H)(ii)(a) was taking place on the property; or

(c) Failed to take reasonable steps to leave the area of the athletic event or school-related activity after being informed of or becoming aware of its use;

(iii) For purposes of subdivision (b)(1)(H)(ii)(a) and (c), property described in subdivision (b)(1)(H)(i) is "in use" only when one (1) or more students are physically present on the property for an activity a reasonable person knows or should know is an athletic event, or other school event or school-related

activity. Property listed in subdivision (b)(1)(H)(i) is not in use solely because equipment, materials, supplies, or other property owned or used by a school is stored, maintained, or permitted to remain on the property;

(I) Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351, while within or on property designated by the federal government as a national park, forest, preserve, historic park, military park, trail or recreation area, to the extent permitted by federal law;

(c) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) For the purposes of this section, a "greenway" means an open-space area following a natural or man-made linear feature designed to be used for recreation, transportation, conservation, and to link services and facilities. A greenway is a paved, gravel-covered, woodchip covered, or wood-covered path that connects one greenway entrance with another greenway entrance. In the event a greenway traverses a park that is owned or operated by a county, municipality or instrumentality thereof, the greenway shall be considered a portion of that park unless designated otherwise by the local legislative body. Except as provided in this part, the definition of a greenway in this section shall not be applicable to any other provision of law**.**

2026, ch. 892, § 11

Note: From what I am hearing if a school sponsored function or event is taking place in the park a person carrying under the new law can't be in the "Immediate Area" of the event/function but the rest of the park etc would be OK. Use Caution as "Immediate Area" is not defined in the new law.

Note: Cities/Counties are not allowed to post Parks. Their old No Gun Signs are still up in some parks. By law they didn't have to remove them until they needed replaced as they have more than just No Firearms Allowed restrictions listed on them. Permit Holders can carry in those parks as stated in 39-17-3311 (H).

39-17-1307, Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon.

~~**(a) (1)** A person commits an offense who carries with the intent to go armed a firearm or a club.~~

~~**(2) (A)** The first violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor, and, in addition to possible imprisonment as provided by law, may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500).~~

~~**(B)** A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor.~~ TN Ct. of Appeals

(e) (1) It is an exception to the application of subsection (a) that a person is carrying or possessing a firearm, loaded firearm, or firearm ammunition in a motor vehicle or motorized boat if the person:

(A) Is not prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm by 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) or purchasing a firearm by § 39-17-1316; and

(B) Is in lawful possession of the motor vehicle or motorized boat.

(2) (A) As used in this subsection (e):

(i) "Boat" means any watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, designed and used primarily for navigation or transportation on the water; and

(ii) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in § 55-1-103..

(B) This subsection (e) shall not apply to a motor vehicle or boat that is:

(i) Owned or leased by a governmental or private entity that has adopted a written policy prohibiting firearms, loaded firearms, or firearm ammunition not required for employment within the motor vehicle or boat; and

(ii) Provided by such entity to an employee for use during the course of employment.

2025, ch. 513, §§ 6, 7.

39-17-1309 Carrying Weapons on School Property. (New Section 7/1/2024)

(f)(1) As used in this subsection (f), "non-lethal weapon" means pepper spray, a pepper spray gun, pepper gel, mace, a stun gun, an electronic control device, or other conducted energy device.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (b) or another law to the contrary:

(A) Except as provided in subdivisions (f)(2)(B) and (C), a public college or university or other public institution of higher education, shall not prohibit an adult person, including, but not limited to, a staff member, student, employee, and other adult person lawfully present on the property of the college, university, or institution from carrying a non-lethal weapon for purposes of self-defense when in any building or bus, on the campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field, or any other property owned, operated, or while in use by any college or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public higher educational institution.

(B) A public college or university or other public institution of higher education may prohibit the carrying of non-lethal weapons on the grounds of any pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (pre-K-12) school located on its campus.

(C) A public college or university or other public institution of higher education may prohibit the carrying of non-lethal weapons in any building where armed security is provided or where such carrying is prohibited by contract. 2026, ch. 892, § 10

39-16-201. Introduction or Possession of Weapons, Ammunition, Explosives, Intoxicants, Legend Drugs, or Controlled Substances or Controlled Substance Analogues Into Penal Institution.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to:

(1) Knowingly and with unlawful intent take, send, or otherwise cause to be taken into any penal institution where prisoners are quartered or under custodial supervision:

(A) Any weapon, ammunition, or explosive;

(B) Any intoxicant, legend drug, controlled substance, or controlled substance analogue found in chapter 17, part 4 of this title; or

(C) Any telecommunication device

(2) A violation of subdivision (b)(1)(B), (b)(1)(C), or (b)(2)(B) is a Class D felony.

(A) Any weapon, ammunition, or explosive; 2021, ch. 236, §§ 1, 2

39-17-1314. Preemption of Local Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, and Knives -- Actions Against Firearms or Ammunition Manufacturer, Trade Association, or Dealer -- Party Adversely Affected by Local Regulation.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by state law or as specifically provided in subsection (b), the general assembly preempts the whole field of the regulation of firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof including, but not limited to, the use, purchase, transfer, taxation, manufacture, ownership, possession, carrying, sale, acquisition, gift, devise, loan, licensing, registration, storage, and transportation thereof, to the exclusion of all county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government law, ordinances, resolutions, enactments or regulation. No county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government nor any local agency, department, or official shall occupy any part of the field regulation of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof.

(b) A city, county, town, municipality or metropolitan government is expressly authorized to regulate by ordinance, or resolution the following:

(1) The carrying of firearms by employees or independent contractors of the city, county, town municipality or metropolitan government when acting in the course and scope of their employment or contract, except as otherwise provided in § 39-17-1313;

(2) The discharge of firearms within the boundaries of the applicable city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government, to the extent that such regulation is expressly authorized by state law;

(3) The location of a sport shooting range, except as otherwise provided in §§ 39-17-316 and 13-3-412. To the extent that a city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government has or enforces any regulation concerning the location of privately owned or operated sport shooting ranges, the city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government shall not impose greater restrictions or requirements on privately owned or operated ranges than are applicable to any range located within the same unit of local government and owned or operated by a government entity. A party may challenge any regulation of a sport shooting range that violates this subdivision (b)(3) in the manner described in subsection (g); and

(4) The enforcement of any state law pertaining to firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof, except as prohibited by § 38-3-115.

(c) The general assembly declares that the lawful design, marketing, manufacture and sale of firearms and ammunition to the public are not unreasonably dangerous activities and do not per se constitute a nuisance, civil conspiracy, negligent entrustment, or unlawful business practice. 2026, ch. 673, § 1.

Full time Employees as defined below can carry on Public Institutions of Higher Education.

39-17-1309 (e)(9), With permission from Private K – Universities a full time employee can carry on that property. The School must have a policy before carry is legal for that person. For more information read 39-17-1309 and check with the private school where you are employed.

49-50-803 & 49-7-161. States that Private K-12 and Private Colleges/Universities will have a written firearms policy and shall inform all new students of that policy. That it must be disseminated so that everyone knows the rules. They can ban firearms totally from their campus buildings and property and or only let certain people carry or let anyone carry. You would have to look at the schools policy to know each schools rules/regs.

Note: Handgunlaw.us recommends you talk to the Police Agency over the Public Institution you work full time at. They will have a procedure set up on how to officially notify them and most likely have information for your particular school. Handgunlaw.us believes you are only authorized to carry your firearm on the property of the Institution that employees you full time.

Land Between The Lakes (USDA Forest Service

(Valid Permit/License Carry Allowed)

U.S. Department of Agriculture - U.S. Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area
Rules amd Regulations (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)

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

"**YES**"

§ 39-17-1359. Prohibition at Certain Meeting -- Posted Notice – Enhanced Handgun Permit Holder

(a) (1) Except as provided in § 39-17-1313, an individual, corporation, business entity, or local, state or federal government entity or agent thereof is authorized to:

(A) Prohibit the possession of weapons by any person who is at a meeting conducted by, or on property owned, operated, or managed or under the control of the individual, corporation, business entity, or government entity; or

(B) Restrict the possession of weapons by any person who is at a meeting conducted by, or on property owned, operated, or managed or under the control of the individual, corporation, business entity, or government entity by allowing a handgun to be carried in a concealed manner only by persons authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 or § 39-17-1366.

(2) The prohibition in subdivision (a)(1) shall apply to any person who is authorized to carry a firearm by authority of § 39-17-1351 or § 39-17-1366.

(b) (1) Notice of the prohibition or restriction permitted by subsection (a) shall be accomplished by displaying the notice described in subdivision (b)(3) in prominent locations, including all entrances primarily used by persons entering the property, building, or portion of the property or building where weapon possession is prohibited or restricted. The notice shall be plainly visible to the average person entering the building, property, or portion of the building or property, posted.

(2) The notice required by this section shall be in English, but a duplicate notice may also be posted in any language used by patrons, customers, or persons who frequent the place where weapon possession is prohibited or restricted.

(3) (A) A sign shall be used as the method of posting.

(B) (i) A sign prohibiting possession in accordance with subdivision (a)(1)(A) shall include the phrase "NO FIREARMS ALLOWED", and the phrase shall measure at least one inch (1") high and eight inches (8") wide. The sign shall also include the phrase "As authorized by T.C.A. § 39-17-1359"

(ii) The sign shall include a pictorial representation of the phrase "NO FIREARMS ALLOWED" that shall include a circle with a diagonal line through the circle and an image of a firearm inside the circle under the diagonal line. The entire pictorial representation shall be at least four inches (4") high and four (4") wide. The diagonal line shall be at a forty-five degree (45°) angle from the upper left to the lower right side of the circle.

(C) (i) A sign restricting possession in accordance with subdivision (a)(1)(B) shall include the phrase "CONCEALED FIREARMS BY PERMIT ONLY", ", and the phrase shall measure at least one inch (1") high and eight inches (8") wide. The sign shall also include the phrase "As authorized by T.C.A. § 39-17-1351, 39-17-1366, § 39-17-1359, and 39-17-1366".

(ii) The sign shall include a pictorial representation of the phrase "CONCEALED FIREARMS BY PERMIT ONLY" that shall include a circle with a diagonal line through the circle and an image of a firearm and an image of an eyeball inside the circle. The entire pictorial representation shall be at least four inches (4") high and four inches (4") wide. The diagonal line shall be at a forty five degree(45°) angle from the upper left to the lower right side of the circle.

(4) An individual, corporation, business entity, or government entity that, as of January 1, 2018, used signs to provide notice of the prohibition permitted by subsection (a) shall have until January 1, 2019, to replace existing signs with signs that meet the requirements of subdivision (b)(3).

(c) (1) It is an offense to possess a weapon in a building or on property that is properly posted in accordance

with this section.

(2) Possession of a weapon on posted property in violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by fine only of five hundred dollars ($500).

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter, reduce or eliminate any civil or criminal liability that a property owner or manager may have for injuries arising on their property.

(e) This section shall not apply to title 70 regarding wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

(f) Except as provided in subsection (g), This section shall not apply to the grounds of any public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality or instrumentality thereof. The carrying of firearms in those areas shall be governed by § 39-17-1311.

(g) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (g)(2), nothing in this section shall authorize an entity of local government or a permittee thereof to enact or enforce a prohibition or restriction on the possession of a handgun by an enhanced handgun carry permit holder or concealed handgun carry permit holder on property owned or administered by the entity unless the following are provided at each public entrance to the property:

(A) Metal detection devices;

(B) At least one (1) law enforcement or private security officer who has been adequately trained to conduct inspections of persons entering the property by use of metal detection devices; and

(C) That each person who enters the property through the public entrance when the property is open to the public and any bag, package, and other container carried by the person is inspected by a law enforcement or private security officer described in subdivision (g)(1)(B) or an authorized representative with the authority to deny entry to the property.

(2) Subdivision (g)(1) does not apply to:

(A) Facilities that are licensed under title 33, 37, or 68;

(B) Property on which firearms are prohibited by § 39-17-1309 or § 39-17-1311(b)(1)(H)(ii);

(C) Property on which firearms are prohibited by § 39-17-1306 at all times regardless of whether judicial proceedings are in progress;

(D) Buildings that contain a law enforcement agency, as defined in § 39-13-519;

(E) Libraries; or

(F) Facilities that are licensed by the department of human services, under title 71, chapter 3, part 5, and administer a Head Start program.

(h) If the possession of a firearm in a county courthouse is restricted or prohibited pursuant to subsection (g) or § 39-17-1306, then the sheriff of the county may provide secure storage lockers for those individuals who are carrying a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1351, § 39-17-1366, or § 39-17-1307 to store the firearm in separate secured, lockable storage units at or near a designated public entrance to the building or structure at no cost to the individual. 2026, ch. 919, § 1

39-17-1325 Immunity for Failure to Adopt Policy That Prohibits Weapons on Premises.

(a) A person, business, or other entity that owns, controls, or manages property and has the authority to prohibit weapons on that property by posting, pursuant to§ 39-17-1359, shall be immune from civil liability with respect to any claim based on such person's, business's, or other entity's failure to adopt a policy that prohibits weapons on the property by posting pursuant to§ 39-17-1359.

(b) Immunity under this subsection (a) does not apply to a person, business, or other entity whose conduct or failure to act is the result of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. History: Acts 2016, ch. 947, § 1.

Note: Handgunlaw.us believes when you come across a business that is posted that you not just walk away. That business needs to know that they lost your business because of their "No Gun" sign. Giving them a "No Firearms = No Money" card would do just that. You can print free "No Firearms = No Money" cards by going **Here**.

Parking Lot Storage Law

49-7-163. Possession and Storage of Firearms or Firearms Ammunition in Accordance With § 39-17-1313 -- Prohibition Against Disciplinary Action.

No public postsecondary institution shall take any adverse or disciplinary action against an employee or student of the postsecondary institution solely for such person's transportation and storage of a firearm or firearm ammunition in compliance with § 39-17-1313 while on or using a parking area located on property owned, used, or operated by the postsecondary institution. Acts 2016, ch. 806, § 1.

Note: See 39-17-1313 below for how it is to be transported/stored in a Motor Vehicle.

39-17-1313. Transporting and Storing a Firearm or Firearm Ammunition In Permit Holder's Motor Vehicle.

(a) Notwithstanding any law or any ordinance or resolution adopted by the governing body of a city, county, or metropolitan government, including any ordinance or resolution enacted before April 8, 1986, that prohibits or regulates the possession, transportation, or storage of a firearm or firearm ammunition, a person who has a valid enhanced handgun carry permit or concealed handgun carry permit or who lawfully carries a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1307(g) may, unless expressly prohibited by federal law, transport and store a firearm or firearm ammunition in the person's motor vehicle, as defined in § 55-1-103, while on or utilizing any public or private parking area if:

(1) The person's motor vehicle is parked in a location where the motor vehicle is permitted to be; and

(2) The firearm or ammunition being transported or stored in the motor vehicle:

(A) Is kept from ordinary observation if the person is in the motor vehicle; or

(B) Is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, glove box, or interior of the person's motor vehicle or a container securely affixed to the motor vehicle if the person is not in the motor vehicle.

(b) No business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property shall be held liable in any civil action for damages, injuries or death resulting from or arising out of another's actions involving a firearm or ammunition transported or stored by a person in a person's motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (a) unless the business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property commits an offense involving the use of the stored firearm or ammunition or intentionally solicits or procures the conduct resulting in the damage, injury or death. Nor shall a business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property be responsible for the theft of a firearm or ammunition stored by a person in a person's motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle as defined in § 55-1-103, which is in the lawful possession of the person, but does not include any motor vehicle which is owned or leased by a governmental or

business entity and that is provided by such entity to an employee for use during the course of employment if the entity has adopted a written policy prohibiting firearms or ammunition not required for employment within the entity's motor vehicles; and

(2) (A) "Parking area" means any property provided by a business entity, public or private employer, or the owner, manager, or legal possessor of the property for the purpose of permitting its invitees, customers, clients or employees to park privately owned motor vehicles; and

(B) "Parking area" does not include the grounds or property of an owner-occupied, single-family detached residence, or a tenant-occupied single-family detached residence.

(d) A person transporting, storing or both transporting and storing a firearm or firearm ammunition in accordance with this section does not violate this section if the firearm or firearm ammunition is observed by another person or security device during the ordinary course of the person securing the firearm or firearm ammunition from observation in or on a motor vehicle. 2021, ch. 108, §§ 2-5

50-1-312. Adverse Employment Action for Transporting or Storing Firearm or Ammunition In Employer Parking Area Prohibited -- Cause of Action.

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Employee" means a natural person who performs services for an employer for valuable consideration and who possesses a valid recognized in this state; and

(2) "Employer" means a person, association, or legal or commercial entity receiving services from an employee and, in return, giving compensation of any kind to the employee.

(b)(1)(A) No employer shall discharge or take any adverse employment action against an employee solely for transporting or storing a firearm or firearm ammunition in an employer parking area in a manner consistent with§ 39-17-1313(a).

(B) An employee discharged, or subject to an adverse employment action, in violation of subdivision (b)(1)(A) shall have a cause of action against the employer to enjoin future acts in violation of this section and to recover economic damages plus reasonable attorney fees and costs.

(C) Any action brought under this section shall be filed in the chancery or circuit court having jurisdiction in the county where the alleged violation of subdivision (b)(1)(A) occurred.

(2) In any action brought pursuant to this section, the employee shall have the burden of establishing a prima facie case of discharge, or adverse employment action, based solely on the employee's transporting or storing a firearm or firearm ammunition in the employer's parking area in a manner consistent with § 39-17-1313(a). If the employee satisfies this burden, the burden shall then be on the employer to produce evidence that one (1) or more legitimate reasons existed for the employee's discharge or adverse employment action. The burden on the employer is one of production and not persuasion. If the employer produces such evidence, the presumption of discharge, or adverse employment action, raised by the employee's prima facie case is rebutted, and the burden shifts to the employee to demonstrate that the reason given by the employer was not the true reason for the employee's discharge, or adverse employment action, and that the stated reason was a pretext for discharge or adverse employment action. The allocations of burdens of proof set out in this subdivision (b)(2) shall apply at all stages of the proceedings, including motions for summary judgment. The employee at all times retains the burden of persuading the trier of fact that the employee has been the victim of discharge, or adverse employment action, based solely on the employee's adherence with § 39-17-1313(a).

(3) The employee has one (1) year from the date of termination of employment, or the date of adverse employment action, to file an action pursuant to this section.

(c) The presence of a firearm or ammunition within an employer's parking area in accordance with § 39-17-1313 does not by itself constitute a failure by the employer to provide a safe workplace.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in§ 39-17-1313 for parking areas, nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting an employer from prohibiting firearms or firearm ammunition on the premises of the employer.
Acts 2015, ch. 80, § 1.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

"NO"

39-17-1351 – Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit

(n) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (n)(2) and subsection (x), a permit issued pursuant to this section shall be good for eight (8) years and shall entitle the permit holder to carry any handgun or handguns that the permit holder legally owns or possesses. The permit holder shall have the permit in the holder's immediate possession at all times when carrying a handgun in a location or manner that would be prohibited if not for the person's status as an enhanced handgun carry permit holder and shall display the permit on demand of a law enforcement officer under such circumstances. 2026, ch. 1086, § 2

39-17-1366 - Concealed Handgun Carry Permit.

(e) The permit holder shall have the permit in the holder's immediate possession at all times when carrying a handgun in a location or manner that would be prohibited if not for the person's status as a concealed handgun carry permit holder and shall display the permit on demand of a law enforcement officer under such circumstances. Tenn. Acts, ch. 1,s 3, eff. 9/8/2023.

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

***State/Nat. Parks:** **YES** Valid Permit to Carry Required **State Park Rules** **&** **39-17-1311**

State/National Forests: **YES** **39-17-1311** **(H)** Buildings will be posted if No Gun Zones.

State WMA & Public Hunting Areas: **YES** **39-17-1311** **(H)** Buildings will be posted if No Gun Zones.

Road Side Rest Areas: **YES** Buildings will be posted if No Gun Zones.

***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

Tennessee is a Permitless Carry State. Anyone 18 years of age or older or Active Military/Honorable Discharged Veteran 18 or older can carry a firearm in Tennessee without any type of permit.

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Tennessee is a Permitless Carry State. Anyone18 years of age or older or Active Military or Honorable Discharged Veteran 18 or older can carry a firearm in Tennessee without any type of permit.

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.

Note: See Permitless Carry Sectcion.

State Preemption

39-17-1314. Preemption of Local Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, and Knives -- Actions Against Firearms or Ammunition Manufacturer, Trade Association, or Dealer -- Party Adversely Affected by Local Regulation.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by state law or as specifically provided in subsection (b), the general assembly preempts the whole field of the regulation of firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof including, but not limited to, the use, purchase, transfer, taxation, manufacture, ownership, possession, carrying, sale, acquisition, gift, devise, loan, licensing, registration, storage, and transportation thereof, to the exclusion of all county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government law, ordinances, resolutions, enactments or regulation. No county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government nor any local agency, department, or official shall occupy any part of the field regulation of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof.

(b) A city, county, town, municipality or metropolitan government is expressly authorized to regulate by ordinance, or resolution the following:

(1) The carrying of firearms by employees or independent contractors of the city, county, town municipality or metropolitan government when acting in the course and scope of their employment or contract, except as otherwise provided in § 39-17-1313;

(2) The discharge of firearms within the boundaries of the applicable city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government, to the extent that such regulation is expressly authorized by state law;

(3) The location of a sport shooting range, except as otherwise provided in §§ 39-17-316 and 13-3-412. To the extent that a city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government has or enforces any regulation concerning the location of privately owned or operated sport shooting ranges, the city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government shall not impose greater restrictions or requirements on privately owned or operated ranges than are applicable to any range located within the same unit of local government and owned or operated by a government entity. A party may challenge any regulation of a sport shooting range that violates this subdivision (b)(3) in the manner described in subsection (g); and

(4) The enforcement of any state law pertaining to firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or ammunition, or combinations thereof, except as prohibited by § 38-3-115.

(c) The general assembly declares that the lawful design, marketing, manufacture and sale of firearms and ammunition to the public are not unreasonably dangerous activities and do not per se constitute a nuisance, civil conspiracy, negligent entrustment, or unlawful business practice.

(d) (1) The authority to bring suit and right to recover against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer by or on behalf of any state entity, county, municipality or metropolitan

government for damages, abatement or injunctive relief resulting from or relating to the lawful design, manufacture, marketing or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public shall be reserved exclusively to the state.

(2) Nothing in this subsection (d) shall be construed to prohibit a county, municipality, or metropolitan government from bringing an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer or dealer for breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by such county, municipality, or metropolitan government.

(3) Nothing in this subsection (d) shall preclude an individual from bringing a cause of action for breach of a written contract, breach of an express warranty, or for injuries resulting from defects in the materials or workmanship in the manufacture of the firearm.

(e) Repealed by SB 1360 2025.

(f) It is the intent of the general assembly that this part is preemptive with respect to the transfer, ownership, possession or transportation of knives and other weapons and no city, county, or metropolitan government shall occupy any part of the field of regulation of the transfer, ownership, possession or transportation of knives or other weapons.

(g) (1) (A) Notwithstanding title 29, chapter 20; title 9, chapter 8; and § 20-13-102, a party may file an action in a court of competent jurisdiction against any of the persons or entities listed in subdivisions (g)(1)(A)(i) and (ii), if the party is adversely affected by:

(i) An ordinance, resolution, policy, rule, or other enactment that is adopted or enforced by a county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government or any local agency, department, or official that violates this section; or

(ii) The creation or maintenance of a record, database, registry, or collection of records, in violation of § 39-17-1305, by a state or local government entity, official, employee, or agent.

(B) The adversely affected party may seek:

(i) Declaratory and injunctive relief; and

(ii) Damages, as provided in subsection (i).

(2) This subsection (g) shall apply to any ordinance, resolution, policy, rule, or other enactment that is adopted or enforced on or after July 1, 2017, or any record, database, registry, or collection of records that is made or maintained on or after July 1, 2021..

(h) As used in subsection (g), a party is "adversely affected" if:

(1) The party is an individual who:

(A) Lawfully resides within the United States;

(B) May legally possess a firearm under Tennessee law; and

(C) Is, was, or will be subject to the ordinance, resolution, policy, rule, or other enactment or was included as an entry on a database, registry, or collection of records, that is, was, or will be subject of an action filed under subsection (g). An individual is or was subject to the ordinance, resolution, policy, rule, or other enactment if the individual is, was, or intends to be physically present within the boundaries of the political subdivision for any reason; or

(2) The party is a membership organization that:

(A) Includes two (2) or more individuals described in subdivision (h)(1); and

(B) Is dedicated in whole or in part to protecting the rights of persons who possess, own, or use firearms for competitive, sporting, defensive, or other lawful purposes.

(i) A prevailing plaintiff in an action under subsection (g) is entitled to recover from the county, city, town, municipality, or metropolitan government the following:

(1) The greater of:

(A) Actual damages, including consequential damages, attributable to the ordinance, resolution, policy, rule, enactment, database, registry, or collection of records; or

(B) Three (3) times the plaintiff's attorney's fees;

(2) Court costs, including fees; and

(3) Reasonable attorney's fees; provided, that attorney's fees shall not be awarded under this subdivision (i)(3) if the plaintiff recovers under subdivision (i)(1)(B).

(j)(1) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(2) or another law to the contrary, a city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government shall not regulate the manner and means of taking wildlife, including the discharge of a firearm while lawfully hunting. Such manner and means of taking wildlife is regulated pursuant to rules promulgated and proclamations issued by the fish and wildlife commission under its delegated authority in title 70.

(2) This part does not prohibit a county or municipality from regulating the discharge of a firearm by a person lawfully hunting within five hundred feet (500′) of school property. 2026, ch. 673, § 1.

Deadly Force Laws

Title 39 Chpt. 11 Part 6

39-11-601. Justification a defense.
39-11-602. Justification definitions.
39-11-603. Confinement as justifiable force.
39-11-604. Reckless injury of innocent third person.
39-11-605. Civil remedies unaffected.
39-11-609 . Necessity.
39-11-610. Public duty.
39-11-611. Self-defense.
39-11-612. Defense of third person.
39-11-613. Protection of life or health.
39-11-614. Protection of property.
39-11-615. Protection of third person's property.
39-11-616. Use of device to protect property.
39-11-620. Use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer.
39-11-621. Use of deadly force by private citizen.
39-11-622. Justification for use of force — Exceptions — Immunity from civil liability.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES

Note: A "YES" above means you can carry into places like described below. "NO" means you can't. Handgunlaw.us definition of "Restaurant Carry" is carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol. Places like Friday's 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 Tennessee Law concerning Chemical Sprays, Stun Guns Or Higher Capacity Magazine Bans.

Notice: Adults can carry defensive sprays and Stun Guns on the Campus of Higher Education in Tennessee. See **39-17-1309** **Carrying Weapons on School Property.** in the Places Off Limits Section.

LEOSA State Information

LEOSA Qualifications, Instructor Listing. Forms, Information (Scroll to Bottom of Page)

39-17-1350 & 39-17-1351 Covers LEOSA/ID Cards/Etc

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

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- **Tennessee AG - Open/Concealed Carry ruling**
- **Tennessee AG - Possession on Government Owned Property**
- **Tennessee AG - Park Buildings**
- **Tennessee AG – Clarification on Carrying In Parks During School Function**
- **Tennessee AG - Landlords can ban firearms possession by renters on rental property.**
- **Tennessee AG – Parking Lot Storage Law Opinion.**
- **TN AG - Possession of Firearms in Public Parks Owned by Counties and Municipalities**
- **TN AG – Firearms on/in Church Schools**
- **TN AG - Carry in Parks Being Used by Schools**
- **TN Ct of Appeals Nashville – Housing Authorities Can't Ban Firearms on Property**
- **US Dist Ct E. Dist. Knoxville – 18 Y/O Can Carry and Obtain a Permit to Carry** 2/1/2023

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Link to State Statutes

Airport Carry: **Building/Lots must be posted for law to apply § 39-17-1359.**

Training Valid for: **12 Months**

Time Period to Establish Residency: **30 Days**

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

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

State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute: **39-17-1351.**

State Firearm Laws: **39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1366**

State Deadly Force Laws: **39-11-611**

State Knife Laws: **39-17-1397 & 39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1310**

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: **39-13-803**

Body Armor Laws: **39-17-1323**

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **NO** **39-17-1351.**

State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s: **TN Statute § 39-17-1320**

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with or Without a Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? **YES** **70-4-103(b)** **&** TN Wildlife Resources Agency Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Notes

What Does TN Consider A Loaded Firearm?

39-17-1301

(17) "Unloaded" means the rifle, shotgun or handgun does not have ammunition in the chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine, and no clip or magazine is in the immediate vicinity of the weapon. 2025, ch. 513, § 1.

State Emergency Powers

58-2-107. Emergency Management Powers of the Governor. (Edited for Space Considerations)

(a)(1) The governor is responsible for addressing the dangers presented to this state and its people by emergencies. In the event of an emergency beyond local control, the governor, or, in the governor's absence, the governor's successor as provided by law, may assume direct operational control over all or any part of the emergency management functions within this state, and such person has the power through proper process of law to carry out this chapter. The governor is authorized to delegate such powers as the governor may deem prudent.

(2) Pursuant to the authority vested in the governor under subdivision (a)(1), the governor may issue executive orders, proclamations, and rules and may amend or rescind them. Such executive orders, proclamations, and rules have the force and effect of law; provided, that such orders, proclamations, or rules do not contravene, suspend, or conflict with a provision of the Constitution of Tennessee.

(b)(1) The governor or the governor's designee, shall declare a state of emergency or a disaster declaration in one (1) of two (2) ways:

(A) By executive order or proclamation; or

(B) By the activation of the TEMP.

(2) These two (2) types of threats may be declared by the governor if the governor finds an emergency has occurred or the occurrence of threat thereof is imminent. The state of emergency shall continue until the governor finds that the threat or danger has been dealt with to the extent that the emergency conditions no longer exist and the governor terminates the state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, but no state of emergency may continue for longer than forty-five (45) days unless renewed by the governor. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this section shall indicate the nature of the emergency, the area or areas threatened, and the conditions which have brought the emergency about or which make possible its termination. An executive order or proclamation shall be promptly disseminated by means

calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and, unless the circumstances attendant upon the emergency prevent or impede such filing, the order or proclamation shall be filed promptly with the department of state and in the office of the chief executive officer in each county to which the order or proclamation applies.

(c) An executive order or proclamation of a state of emergency shall:

(1) Activate the emergency mitigation, response, and recovery aspects of the state, local, and interjurisdictional emergency management plans applicable to the political subdivision or area in question;

(2) Be authority for the deployment and use of any forces to which the plan or plans apply and for the use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, and materials and facilities assembled, stockpiled, or arranged to be made available pursuant to this chapter or any other law relating to emergencies; and

(3) Identify whether the state of emergency is due to a minor, major, or catastrophic disaster.

(d) During the continuance of a state emergency, the governor is commander in chief of the Tennessee national guard and of all other forces available for emergency duty. To the greatest extent practicable, the governor shall delegate or assign command authority by prior arrangement embodied in appropriate executive orders or rules, but nothing in this section restricts the governor's authority to do so by orders issued at the time of the emergency.

(e) In addition to any other powers conferred upon the governor by law, the governor may:

(1) Except for subsections (m) and (n), the limitations on issuing executive orders, proclamations, and rules specified in subdivision (a)(2), and the duration of a declared state of emergency specified in subdivision (b)(2), suspend any law, order, rule, or regulation prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with any such law, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

(2) Utilize all available resources of the state government and of each political subdivision of the state, as reasonably necessary to cope with the emergency;

(3) Transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services;

(4) Subject to any applicable requirements for compensation, commandeer or utilize any private property, which term shall not be construed to include firearms, ammunition, or firearm or ammunition components, if the governor finds this necessary to cope with the emergency;

(5) Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state if the governor deems this action necessary for the preservation of life or other emergency mitigation, response, or recovery;

(6) Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuation;

(7) Control ingress and egress to and from an emergency area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein;

(8) Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives, or combustibles, which terms shall not be construed to include firearms, ammunition, or firearm or ammunition components;

(9) Make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing;

(10) Take effective measures for limiting or suspending lighting devices and appliances, gas and water mains, electric power distribution, and all other utility services in the general public interest;

(11) Take measures concerning the conduct of civilians, the movement and cessation of movement of pedestrian and vehicular traffic prior to, during, and subsequent to drills and actual or threatened emergencies, the calling of public meetings and gatherings, and the evacuation and reception of civilian

population, as provided in the TEMP and political subdivisions thereof; and

(12) Authorize the use of forces already mobilized as the result of an executive order, rule, or proclamation to assist the private citizens of the state in clean up and recovery operations during emergencies when proper permission to enter onto or into private property has been obtained from the property owner.

(f) The governor shall take such action and give such direction to state and local law enforcement officers and agencies as may be reasonable and necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with this chapter and with the orders and rules made pursuant thereto.

(g) The governor shall employ such measures and give such directions to the department of health and department of human services, division of vocational rehabilitation, as may be reasonable and necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with this chapter or with the findings or recommendations of such agency by reason of conditions arising from emergencies or threats of emergency.

(h) The governor shall delegate emergency responsibilities to the officers and agencies of the state and of the political subdivisions thereof prior to an emergency or threat of an emergency, and shall utilize the services and facilities of existing officers and agencies of the state and of the political subdivisions thereof, including their personnel and other resources, as the primary emergency management forces of the state, and all such officers and agencies shall cooperate with and extend their services and facilities to the agency, as it may require.

(i) The governor and the agency shall establish agencies and offices and appoint executive, professional, technical, clerical and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

(j) The governor shall formulate and execute plans and rules for the control of traffic in order to provide for the rapid and safe movement or evacuation over public highways and streets of people, troops, or vehicles and materials for national defense or for use in any defense industry, and may coordinate the activities of the departments or agencies of the state and the political subdivisions thereof concerned directly or indirectly with public highways and streets in a manner which will effectuate such plans.

(k) The governor may delegate to the director of TEMA the authority to declare a state of emergency in order that certain commercial vehicles engaged in the distribution of electric power, the supply of fuel, or telecommunications services to residences and businesses may be considered to be participating in an emergency relief effort for the purpose of the federal hours-of-service regulations promulgated by the federal motor carrier safety administration. Pursuant to the delegation of authority granted by this subsection (k), the director of TEMA may declare a state of emergency prospectively in anticipation of an emergency.

(*l*)(1) If the governor of Tennessee declares an emergency in response to a catastrophic or major disaster, voluntary health care providers, including hospitals and community mental health care centers, participating in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact or Southern Regional Emergency Management Assistance Compact are immune from liability in providing the health care to victims or evacuees of the catastrophic or major disaster, as long as the services are provided within the limits of the provider's license, certification or authorization, unless an act or omission was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

(2) If additional medical resources are required, the governor, by executive order, may provide limited liability protection to health care providers, including hospitals and community mental health care centers and those licensed, certified or authorized under titles 33, 63 or 68, and who render services within the limits of their license, certification or authorization to victims or evacuees of such emergencies; provided, however, that this protection may not include any act or omission caused by gross negligence or willful misconduct.

(3) The duration of the protection provided by this subsection (*l*) shall not exceed thirty (30) days, but may be extended by the governor by executive order for an additional thirty (30) days, if required to ensure the provision of emergency medical services in response to the catastrophic or major disaster.

(m) During any state of emergency, major disaster or natural disaster, the state, a political subdivision or a

public official shall not prohibit nor impose additional restrictions on the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transport, carrying, storage, display or use of firearms and ammunition or firearm and ammunition components.

(n) During a state of emergency, major disaster, or natural disaster, the state, a political subdivision, or a public official shall not prohibit the operations of a church or religious organization for purposes of worship services.

(o) If the governor issues or extends an executive order or proclamation of a state of emergency under this section, then the general assembly may terminate such state of emergency by joint resolution of both houses.

2025, ch. 475, § 1.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

Tennessee 18 Y/O [39-17-1319]

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 do not know if there is any information on the reverse of this Permit.





These images have been digitally assembled from 2 or more images. They may not be 100% accurate but give a good representation of the actual Permit/Licenses.



Newest Edition of the TN Permit 10/24/2025

Updates to this Page

Archive of Previous Updates 3

9/6/2024 – New Mexico No Longer Honors the Tennessee Permit to Carry. Map Updated. 1309 In Places Off Limits Pepper Spray etc on College Campus Updated. 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 the Tennessee Enhanced Permit. Map Updated.
5/16/2025 – Age to apply/carry updated in all places in document from 21 to 18 per **Act 357 2025**
7/1/2025 – State Preemption Section Updated per SB 1360 . All Links Checked.
9/15/2025 - 39-17-1307(a) and 39-17-1311(a) In Permitless Carry and Places Off Limits Removed Per TN Court of Appeals.

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.
10/24/2025 – Image of New Tennessee Permit Added to Permit/License Image Section.
1/20/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
3/7/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
5/6/2026 - Section (h) Add to 3- 9-17-1359 In Do Gun Signs Have the Force of Law Per HB 2376. All Links Checked.
6/7/2026 –All Links Checked.
8/3/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
9/16/2026 – Maine No Longer Honors the Tennessee Permit. Tennessee Still Honors the Maine Permit.