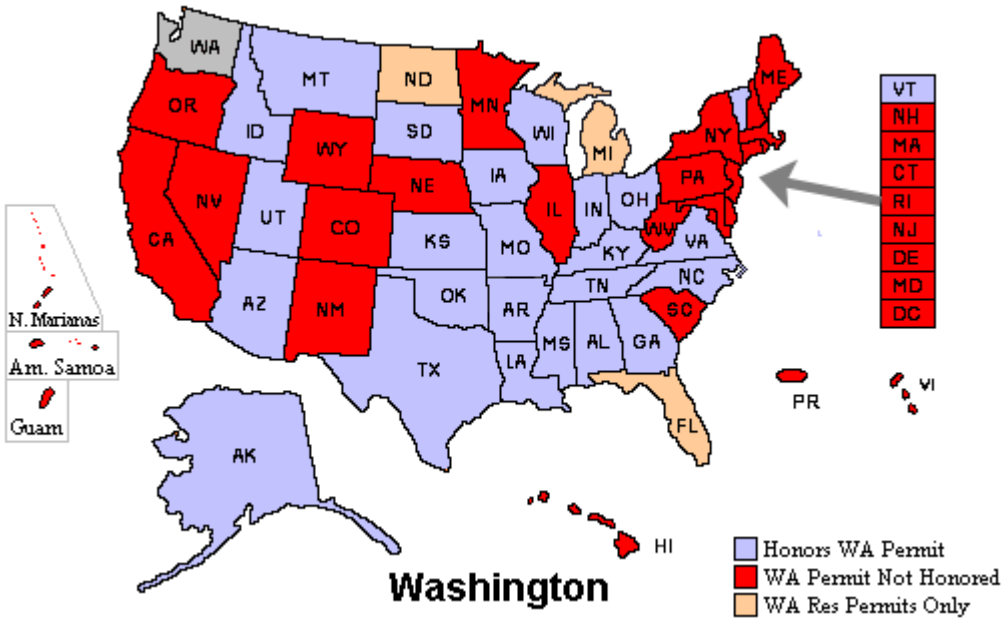
Washington

Shall Issue

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.

WA CPL Links

State CCW Site

Application

Requirements for CPL

AG FAQ Site

How to Apply/Where

Renew Your CPL

State Statutes

State Admin Rules

State Reciprocity Info

State Attorney General

Firearm Laws/Rules
(Scroll Down)

2nd CCW Site

Age to Carry a Firearm In Other States

Last Updated: 9/5/2026

Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

[1]**Idaho**	Kansas	Louisiana	Michigan	[4]**Montana**	North Carolina
[2]**North Dakota**	Ohio	[3]**South Dakota**	Utah		

[1]**Idaho** - Washington only honors the Idaho Enhanced Permit.
[2]**North Dakota** – Washington only honors the Class 1 North Dakota Permit.
[3]**South Dakota –** Washington only honors the South Dakota Enhanced Issued to those 21 or Older.
[4]**Montana** – Washington Only honors the Montana Enhanced Permit.

Washington Honors Non-Resident Permits/Licenses From the States They Honor. (Must be 21 Y/O.)

Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses

RCW 9.41.073 Concealed Pistol License — Reciprocity.

(1)(a) A person licensed to carry a pistol in a state the laws of which recognize and give effect in that state to a concealed pistol license issued under the laws of the state of Washington is authorized to carry a concealed pistol in this state if:

(i) The licensing state does not issue concealed pistol licenses to persons under twenty-one years of age; and
(ii) The licensing state requires mandatory fingerprint-based background checks of criminal and mental health history for all persons who apply for a concealed pistol license.

(b) This section applies to a license holder from another state only while the license holder is not a resident of this state. A license holder from another state must carry the handgun in compliance with the laws of this state.

(2) The attorney general shall periodically publish a list of states the laws of which recognize and give effect in that state to a concealed pistol license issued under the laws of the state of Washington and which meet the requirements of subsection (1)(a)(i) and (ii) of this section. [2004 c 148 § 1.]

How to Apply for a Permit

Where do I apply for a concealed pistol license?

You may complete an application form at one of the following law enforcement offices:

- **If you live in the unincorporated area of a county** you must apply in person at your sheriff's office.
- **If you live in an incorporated city within the county**, you may apply in person at either the city police department or sheriff's office.
- **If you are not a Washington State resident**, you may apply at any local law enforcement agency in Washington. **Note:** Counties can and many do have their own Application Form.

What documents will I need to bring with me?

You will need to bring the following:

- Picture identification such as a Washington State driver license or identification card. If you don't have a Washington State driver license or identification card, you must provide proof you have lived in the state for at least the last 90 days.
- The fee of $36 plus fingerprinting, (Fee may vary slightly) check, or money order made payable to the law enforcement agency. This fee is non-refundable. **Fees**
- If you are in the military, your military ID and orders listing your station location.
- A Photograph of the applicant **may** be required as part of the application and printed on the license.

Military Personnel: By October 1, 2019 Active Military stationed out of state will be able to renew 90 days before or 90 days after the expiration date of their license by mail or online per HB 1934. The renewal is only valid for 1 year. Contact the Sheriff who issued you your License for more information.

Links to all Washington Sheriffs CCW Information Pages

Non-Resident Permits

Non-Residents apply the same way that Residents do. See Resident Permit Section above. I know of no Police/Sheriff Departments that will issue by mail. You must make a trip to Washington to apply.

Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

RCW 9.41.282 - Possessing Dangerous Weapons on Child Care Premises

(1) It is unlawful for a person to carry onto, or to possess on, licensed child care center premises, child care center-provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being used exclusively by a child care center:

(a) Any firearm;

(b) Any other dangerous weapon as described in RCW 9.41.250;

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) Family day care provider homes as defined in RCW 216.010;

(b) Any person in possession of a pistol who has been issued a license under RCW 9.41.070, or is exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW 9.41.060, while picking up or dropping off a child at the child care center;

(c) Any person at least eighteen years of age legally in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon that is secured within an attended vehicle or concealed from view within a locked unattended vehicle while conducting legitimate business at the child care center; [2020 c 189 § 1.]

RCW 9.41.280 Possessing Dangerous Weapons on School Facilities

(1) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly carry onto, or to possess on, public or private elementary or secondary school premises, school-provided transportation, areas of facilities while being used exclusively by public or private schools, or areas of facilities while being used for official meetings of a school district board of directors:

(a) Any firearm;

(b) Any other dangerous weapon as defined in RCW 9.41.250;

(c) Any device commonly known as "nun-chu-ka sticks," consisting of two or more lengths of wood, metal, plastic, or similar substance connected with wire, rope, or other means;

(d) Any device, commonly known as "throwing stars," which are multipointed, metal objects designed to embed upon impact from any aspect;

(e) Any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas; or

(f)(i) Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun which projects wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse

(ii) Any device, object, or instrument which is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse.

(2)(a) Any such person violating subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) Second and subsequent violations of subsection (1) of this section are a gross misdemeanor.

(c) If any person is convicted of a violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section, the person shall have his or her concealed pistol license, if any revoked for a period of three years. Anyone convicted under this subsection is prohibited from applying for a concealed pistol license for a period of three years. The court shall send notice of the revocation to the department of licensing, and the city, town, or county which issued the license.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(e) Any person in possession of a pistol who has been issued a license under RCW 9.41.070, or is Exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW 9.41.060**,** while

(i) picking up or dropping off a student; or

(ii) Attending official meetings of a school district board of directors held off school district-owned or leased property;

(f) Any nonstudent at least eighteen years of age legally in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon that is secured within an attended vehicle or concealed from view within a locked unattended vehicle while conducting legitimate business at the school;

(g) Any nonstudent at least eighteen years of age who is in lawful possession of an unloaded firearm, secured in a vehicle while conducting legitimate business at the school; or

(6) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), (c), (f), and (h) of this section, **firearms are not permitted in a public or private school building.**

(7) "GUN-FREE ZONE" signs shall be posted around school facilities giving warning of the prohibition of the possession of firearms on school grounds.

(8) A school district board of directors must post signs providing notice of the restrictions on possession of firearms and other weapons under this section at facilities being used for official meetings of the school district board of directors. 2023 c 470 s 3004

RCW 9.41.300 Weapons Prohibited In Certain Places — Local Laws and Ordinances — Exceptions — Penalty.

(1) It is unlawful for any person to enter the following places when he or she knowingly possesses or knowingly has under his or her control a weapon:

(a) The restricted access areas of a jail, or of a law enforcement facility, or any place used for the confinement of a person (i) arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense, (ii) held for extradition or as a material witness, or (iii) otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a court, except an order under chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress or ingress open to the general public;

(b) Those areas in any building which are used in connection with court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms, judge's chambers, offices and areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court proceedings. The restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress and egress to the building. The restricted areas shall be the minimum necessary to fulfill the objective of this subsection (1)(b).

For purposes of this subsection (1)(b), "weapon" means any firearm, explosive as defined in RCW 70.74.010, or any weapon of the kind usually known as slung shot, sand club, or metal knuckles, or any knife, dagger, dirk, or other similar weapon that is capable of causing death or bodily injury and is commonly used with the intent to cause death or bodily injury.

In addition, the local legislative authority shall provide either a stationary locked box sufficient in size for pistols and key to a weapon owner for weapon storage, or shall designate an official to receive weapons for safekeeping, during the owner's visit to restricted areas of the building. The locked box or designated official shall be located within the same building used in connection with court proceedings. The local legislative authority shall be liable for any negligence causing damage to or loss of a weapon either placed in a locked box or left with an official during the owner's visit to restricted areas of the building.

The local judicial authority shall designate and clearly mark those areas where weapons are prohibited, and shall post notices at each entrance to the building of the prohibition against weapons in the restricted areas;

(c) The restricted access areas of a public mental health facility licensed or certified by the department of health for inpatient hospital care and state institutions for the care of the mentally ill, excluding those facilities solely for evaluation and treatment. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress and ingress open to the general public;

(d) That portion of an establishment classified by the state liquor and cannabis board as off-limits to persons under 21 years of age; or

(e) The restricted access areas of a commercial service airport designated in the airport security plan approved by the federal transportation security administration, including passenger screening checkpoints at or beyond the point at which a passenger initiates the screening process. These areas do not include airport drives, general parking areas and walkways, and shops and areas of the terminal that are outside the screening checkpoints and that are normally open to unscreened passengers or visitors to the airport. Any restricted access area shall be clearly indicated by prominent signs indicating that firearms and other weapons are prohibited in the area.

(f) The premises of a library established or maintained pursuant to the authority of chapter 27.12 RCW;

(g) The premises of a zoo or aquarium accredited or certified by the association of zoos and aquariums or the zoological association of America or a facility with a current signed memorandum of participation with an association of zoos and aquariums species survival plan; or

(h) The premises of a transit station or transit facility. For purposes of this subsection, "transit station" and "transit facility" have the same meaning as defined in RCW 9.91.025. "Transit station" and "transit facility" do not include any "transit vehicle" as that term is defined in RCW 9.91.025.

Note: Per (14) below (f), (g) and (h) does not apply to those with a Permit to Carry. This would most likely make open carry in (f), (g) and (h**)** illegal.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, it is unlawful for any person to knowingly open carry a firearm or other weapon while knowingly at any permitted demonstration. This subsection (2)(a) applies whether the person carries the firearm or other weapon on his or her person or in a vehicle.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly open carry a firearm or other weapon while knowingly within 250 feet of the perimeter of a permitted demonstration after a duly authorized state or local law enforcement officer advises the person of the permitted demonstration and directs the person to leave until he or she no longer possesses or controls the firearm or other weapon. This subsection (2)(b) does not apply to any person possessing or controlling any firearm or other weapon on private property owned or leased by that person.

(c) Duly authorized federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and personnel are exempt from the provisions of this subsection (2) when carrying a firearm or other weapon in conformance with their employing agency's policy. Members of the armed forces of the United States or the state of Washington are exempt from the provisions of this subsection (2) when carrying a firearm or other weapon in the discharge of official duty or traveling to or from official duty.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Permitted demonstration" means either:

(A) A gathering for which a permit has been issued by a federal agency, state agency, or local government; or

(B) A gathering of 15 or more people who are assembled for a single event at a public place that has been declared as permitted by the chief executive, sheriff, or chief of police of a local government in which the gathering occurs. A "gathering" means a demonstration, march, rally, vigil, sit-in, protest, picketing, or similar public assembly.

(ii) "Public place" means any site accessible to the general public for business, entertainment, or another lawful purpose. A "public place" includes, but is not limited to, the front, immediate area, or parking lot of any store, shop, restaurant, tavern, shopping center, or other place of business; any public building, its grounds, or surrounding area; or any public parking lot, street, right-of-way, sidewalk, public park, or other public grounds.

(iii) "Weapon" has the same meaning given in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(e) Nothing in this subsection applies to the lawful concealed carry of a firearm by a person who has a valid concealed pistol license.

(3) Cities, towns, counties, and other municipalities may enact laws and ordinances:

(a) Restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their respective jurisdictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized. Such laws and ordinances shall not abridge the right of the individual guaranteed by Article I, section 24 of the state Constitution to bear arms in defense of self or others; and

(b) Restricting the possession of firearms in any stadium or convention center, operated by a city, town, county, or other municipality, except that such restrictions shall not apply to:

(i) Any pistol in the possession of a person licensed under RCW 9.41.070 or exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW 9.41.060; or

(ii) Any showing, demonstration, or lecture involving the exhibition of firearms.

(14) Subsection (1)(f), (g), and (h) of this section does not apply to a person licensed to carry a concealed firearm pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 2024 c 285 s 1

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.

RCW 9.41.305 Open Carry of Weapons Prohibited on State Capitol Grounds.

(1) Unless exempt under subsection (3) of this section, it is unlawful for any person to **knowingly open carry** a firearm or other weapon, as defined in RCW 9.41.300(1)(b), while knowingly being in the following locations:

(a) The west state capitol campus grounds; any buildings on the state capitol grounds; any state legislative office; or any location of a public state legislative hearing or meeting during the hearing or meeting; or

(b) City, town, county, or other municipality buildings used in connection with meetings of the governing body of the city, town, county, or other municipality, or any location of a public meeting or hearing of the governing body of a city, town, county, or other municipality during the hearing or meeting.

(5) Nothing in this section applies to the lawful concealed carry of a firearm by a person who has a valid concealed pistol license.

(6) A city, town, county, or other municipality must post signs providing notice of the restrictions on possession of firearms and other weapons under this section at any locations specified in subsection (1)(b) of this section. HB 1630 2023 c 470 § 3006

RCW 9.41.284. Possessing Dangerous Weapons at Voting facilities—Penalty—Exceptions.

(1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, it is unlawful for a person to knowingly carry onto, or to possess in, a ballot counting center, a voting center, a student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter registration office, or areas of facilities while being used as a ballot counting center, a voting center, a student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter registration office:

(a) Any firearm;

(d)(i) Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun that projects wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse;

(4) Subsection (1) of this section does not prohibit concealed carry of a pistol, by a person licensed to carry a concealed pistol pursuant to RCW 9.41.070, in any voting center, student engagement hub, county elections and voter registration office, or areas of facilities while being used as a voting center, student engagement hub, or county elections and voter registration office. However, **no weapon restricted by this section, whether concealed or openly carried, may be possessed in any ballot counting center or areas of facilities while being used as a ballot counting center.** SB 5078 2023 c 470 § 3005

RCW 70.108.150 Firearms—Penalty.

"It shall be unlawful for any person, except law enforcement officers, to carry, transport or convey, or to have in his possession or under his control any firearm while on the site of an outdoor music festival." 2012 c 117 § 424;

RCW 70.108.020 Definitions.

(3) "Outdoor music festival" or "music festival" or "festival" means an assembly of persons gathered primarily for outdoor, live or recorded musical entertainment, where the predicted attendance is two thousand persons or more and where the duration of the program is five hours or longer: PROVIDED, That this definition shall not be applied to any regularly established permanent place of worship, stadium, athletic field, arena, auditorium, coliseum, or other similar permanently established places of assembly for assemblies which do not exceed by more than two hundred fifty people the maximum seating capacity of the structure where the assembly is held: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That this definition shall not apply to government sponsored fairs held on regularly established fairgrounds nor to assemblies required to be licensed under other laws or regulations of the state. [2012 c 117 § 421; 1971 ex.s. c 302 § 21.]

RCW 9.94.043 Deadly weapons — Possession on Premises by Person Not a Prisoner — Penalty.

A person, other than a person serving a sentence in a penal institution of this state, is guilty of possession of contraband on the premises of a state correctional institution in the first degree if, without authorization to do so, the person knowingly possesses or has under his or her control a deadly weapon on or in the buildings or adjacent grounds subject to the care, control, or supervision of a state correctional institution. Deadly weapon is used as defined in RCW 9A.04.110: PROVIDED, That such correctional buildings, grounds, or property are properly posted pursuant to RCW 9.94.047, and such person has knowingly entered thereon: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this section do not apply to a person licensed pursuant to RCW 9.41.070 who, upon entering the correctional institution premises, proceeds directly along an access road to the administration building and promptly checks his or her firearm(s) with the appropriate authorities. The person may reclaim his or her firearm(s) upon leaving, but he or she must immediately and directly depart from the premises.

Possession of contraband on the premises of a state correctional institution in the first degree is a class B felony. [1979 c 121 § 3.]

RCW 46.10.495 Additional Violations — Penalty.

(1) No person shall operate a snowmobile in such a way as to endanger human life.

(2) No person shall operate a snowmobile in such a way as to run down or harass deer, elk, or any wildlife, or any domestic animal, nor shall any person carry any loaded weapon upon, nor hunt from, any snowmobile except by permit issued by the director of fish and wildlife under RCW 77.32.237.

(3) Any person violating this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. 2003 c 53 § 234; 1994 c 264 § 37;

Washington State School for the Blind, and the Washington State School for the Deaf

WAC 148-140-080 & 72-140-080

(4) No person or group may use or enter onto school facilities having in their possession firearms or other weapons, even if licensed to do so, except duly appointed and commissioned law enforcement officers.WSR 90-16-015, § 148-140-080, filed 7/19/90

Firearms, Weapons Prohibited In Administrative Hearings.

WAC 10-20-010 (1) & 10-20-030

(1) Firearms or other dangerous weapons are prohibited at all facilities owned, leased, or operated by the office of administrative hearings and in rooms where the office of administrative hearings is conducting an administrative hearing. This prohibition applies to all parties or witnesses at hearings, all office of administrative hearings employees, and all other persons present. However, it does not apply to law enforcement personnel, security personnel, or military personnel, all while engaged in official duties.

(3) Possession of a valid concealed weapons permit is not a defense to the prohibition in this section.
WSR 05-03-003, § 10-20-010, filed 1/5/05

Places listed below that have Rules that state no firearms allowed on Premises. Washington State Administrative Rules cover these areas.

Colleges/Universities, Licensed Child Care Facilities, Racing Association Grounds, An Emergency Respite Center, Licensed Pregnant and Parenting Teen Residential Programs And Their Facilities, Licensed Homes and Facilities That Provide Care To Children. Overnight Youth Shelter & Residence Operated By the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration

Note: People who work or attend school at such places can be fired/expelled if they possess firearms on these listed properties. The Administrative Rules of Washington have the information on carrying on College/Universities. You can see the code **Here** and look down to the listed College/University to see their rules on carry. Due to requirements of I-1639 it looks like Universities/Colleges will no longer be able to store firearms for students attending school.

Cities Can't Ban Firearms in Their City Parks.

The WA Supreme Court refused to hear Seattle's appeal to a lower Courts decision stating that Seattle's ban on firearms in Parks was in violation of Washington's Preemption law. This ruling stops all cities in Washington from banning firearms in their city parks. Ruling upheld can be read **Here.**

Carry in Vehicle With a Valid Permit/License

RCW 9.41.050 Carrying firearms

(2)(a) A person shall not carry or place a loaded pistol in any vehicle unless the person has a license to carry a concealed pistol and: **(i)** The pistol is on the licensee's person, **(ii)** the licensee is within the vehicle at all times that the pistol is there, or **(iii)** the licensee is away from the vehicle and the pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle. [2003 c 53 § 28; 1997 c 200 § 1;

Note: Some people have stated that the wording in the above law means that you must have the firearm on your person when in a vehicle. The AG's Office gave an answer to a Legislature in 1987 that stated it didn't have to be on your person. This letter is not an official AG Opinion. The law reads the same as it did in 1987 as far as I can ascertain. You can read that letter **Here**.

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

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

"NO"

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

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

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

"NO"

RCW 9.41.050 Carrying Firearms.

(b) Every licensee shall have his or her concealed pistol license in his or her immediate possession at all times that he or she is required by this section to have a concealed pistol license and shall display the same upon demand to any police officer or to any other person when and if required by law to do so. Any violation of this subsection (1)(b) shall be a class 1 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW and shall be punished accordingly pursuant to chapter 7.80 RCW and the infraction rules for courts of limited jurisdiction.

[2003 c 53 § 28; 1997 c 200 § 1;

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

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

***State Parks:** **YES** **WAC 352-32-120**

State/National Forests: **YES** **WAC 332-52-145** **(6) DNR Properties**

State WMA: **YES** **WAC 220-500-140** **Fish & Wildlife**

Road Side Rest Areas: **YES**

***Notice:** If State Park Carry is Legal in this state and if that state park is located on a lake created by the US Army Corp of Engineers (COE) who owns the land and leases it to the state for that park the park is Off Limits to the legal carrying of firearms per federal law. **36 CFR 327.13** District Commanders received this Memorandum detailing how they could authorize someone to carry on (COE) property. The (COE) has also put out a Pamphlet on carrying firearms on (COE) Property. They do not post their property you must know the boundaries. Hunting **is usually** allowed during hunting season.

RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License.

RCW 9.41.050 Carrying Firearms.

(1)(a) Except in the person's place of abode or fixed place of business, a person shall not carry a pistol concealed on his or her person without a license to carry a concealed pistol.

(b) Every licensee shall have his or her concealed pistol license in his or her immediate possession at all times that he or she is required by this section to have a concealed pistol license and shall display the same upon demand to any police officer or to any other person when and if required by law to do so. Any violation of this subsection (1)(b) shall be a class 1 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW and shall be punished accordingly pursuant to chapter 7.80 RCW and the infraction rules for courts of limited jurisdiction.

(2)(a) A person shall not carry or place a loaded pistol in any vehicle unless the person has a license to carry a concealed pistol and:

(i) The pistol is on the licensee's person

(ii) the licensee is within the vehicle at all times that the pistol is there, or

(iii) the licensee is away from the vehicle and the pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(3)(a) A person at least eighteen years of age who is in possession of an unloaded pistol shall not leave the unloaded pistol in a vehicle unless the unloaded pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(4) Nothing in this section permits the possession of firearms illegal to possess under state or federal law.

2003 c 53 § 28; 1997 c 200 § 1;

RCW 9.41.060 Exceptions to Restrictions on Carrying Firearms.

The provisions of RCW 9.41.050 shall not apply to:

(4) Any person engaged in the business of manufacturing, repairing, or dealing in firearms, or the agent or representative of the person, if possessing, using, or carrying a pistol in the usual or ordinary course of the business;

(6) Regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of target shooting, when those members are at or are going to or from their places of target practice;

(7) Regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of modern and antique firearm collecting, when those members are at or are going to or from their collector's gun shows and exhibits;

(8) Any person engaging in a lawful outdoor recreational activity such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, or horseback riding, only if, considering all of the attendant circumstances, including but not limited to whether the person has a valid hunting or fishing license, it is reasonable to conclude that the person is participating in lawful outdoor activities or is traveling to or from a legitimate outdoor recreation area;

(9) Any person while carrying a pistol unloaded and in a closed opaque case or secure wrapper.

2024 c 330 s 3;

Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)

Notice: 7/12/2024 - Spokane has passed an ordinance that allows them to ban open carry on certain properties in their city. Other cities may follow their example. Handgunlaw.us believes they would have to post these areas. Use Caution! You can read the **Spokane Ordinance Here**. (Ordinance Updated 8/2024)

Open Carry is legal but you must have a valid permit/license to carry a loaded handgun in any vehicle in Washington. This includes Cars, Buses and Trains. You can keep the firearm holstered with empty chamber on your hip in your vehicle (can't be concealed) but the loaded mag must be removed. Places as listed in the "Places Off Limits" above apply to those who open carry. All School Property and Facilities used for school functions are off limits to those without a valid permit/license. See the "RV/Car Carry Without a Permit" section for more information on carrying in a vehicle.

Notice: See Places Off Limits for additional places Open Carry is banned. A new section is added to chapter 9.41 and RCW 9.41.300 that has definitions of exact locations where open carry at or near demonstrations and capitol area are off limits. Also see SB 5038 for information until this new section is added to WA Statutes.

RCW 9.41.060 Exceptions to Restrictions on Carrying Firearms.

(8) Any person engaging in a lawful outdoor recreational activity such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, or horseback riding, only if, considering all of the attendant circumstances, including but not limited to whether the person has a valid hunting or fishing license, it is reasonable to conclude that the person is participating in lawful outdoor activities or is traveling to or from a legitimate outdoor recreation area;

2024 c 330 s 3;

Note: It is up to you to know those local ordinances. Remember that if you enter any property and the owner/responsible person ask you to leave you must leave. Failure to leave can result in Trespass Charges. The Minimum age for Open Carry is 21. I am being told to open carry under RCW 9.41.060 you only have to be 18.

Washington Attorney W. K. Kirk gives his take on Open Carry in Washington State **Here**.

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

State Preemption

RCW 9.41.290 State Preemption.

The state of Washington hereby fully occupies and preempts the entire field of firearms regulation within the boundaries of the state, including the registration, licensing, possession, purchase, sale, acquisition, transfer, discharge, and transportation of firearms, or any other element relating to firearms or parts thereof, including ammunition and reloader components. Cities, towns, and counties or other municipalities may enact only those laws and ordinances relating to firearms that are specifically authorized by state law, as in RCW 9.41.300, and are consistent with this chapter. Such local ordinances shall have the same penalty as provided for by state law. Local laws and ordinances that are inconsistent with, more restrictive than, or exceed the requirements of state law shall not be enacted and are preempted and repealed, regardless of the nature of the code, charter, or home rule status of such city, town, county, or municipality.

[1994 sp.s. c 7 § 428; 1985 c 428 § 1; 1983 c 232 § 12.]

Deadly Force Laws

Chapter 9A.16 RCW **Defenses**

9A.16.010 Definitions.
9A.16.020 Use of force -- When lawful.
9A.16.030 Homicide -- When excusable.
9A.16.040 Justifiable homicide or use of deadly force by public officer, peace officer, person aiding.
9A.16.050 Homicide -- By other person -- When justifiable.
9A.16.060 Duress.
9A.16.070 Entrapment.
9A.16.080 Action for being detained on mercantile establishment premises for investigation -- "Reasonable grounds" as defense.
9A.16.090 Intoxication.
9A.16.100 Use of force on children -- Policy -- Actions presumed unreasonable.
9A.16.110 Defending against violent crime -- Reimbursement.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click "Here"

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES **RCW 9.41.300 (1)(d)(Only in parts of the restaurant where those under 21 years of age are allowed.)**

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

RCW 9.41.370 - Large Capacity Magazines—Exceptions—Penalty.

(1) No person in this state may manufacture, import, distribute, sell, or offer for sale any large capacity magazine……. 2022 c 104 § 3

Note: It will not be illegal to keep what they call Large Capacity Magazines that Washington State Residents possess when the law goes into effect July 1, 2022. It will be illegal to buy, sell or import into the state any magazine that holds over 10 rounds after that date. Any non-resident entering the state after the law takes effect would be limited to only possessing magazines that hold 10 rounds or less. You need to read all of the new law. .

RCW 9.41.010 Terms Defined

(24) "Import" means to move, transport, or receive an item from a place outside the territorial limits of the

state of Washington to a place inside the territorial limits of the state of Washington. "Import" does not mean situations where an individual possesses a large capacity magazine or assault weapon when departing from, and returning to, Washington state, so long as the individual is returning to Washington in possession of the same large capacity magazine or assault weapon the individual transported out of state.

(26) "Large capacity magazine" means an ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition, or any conversion kit, part, or combination of parts, from which such a device can be assembled if those parts are in possession of or under the control of the same person, but shall not be construed to include any of the following:

(a) An ammunition feeding device that has been permanently altered so that it cannot accommodate more than 10 rounds of ammunition;

(b) A 22 caliber tube ammunition feeding device; or

(c) A tubular magazine that is contained in a lever-action firearm. HB 2320 2026

RCW 9.91.160 Personal Protection Spray Devices.

(1) It is unlawful for a person under eighteen years old, unless the person is at least fourteen years old and has the permission of a parent or guardian to do so, to purchase or possess a personal protection spray device. A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(2) No town, city, county, special purpose district, quasi-municipal corporation or other unit of government may prohibit a person eighteen years old or older, or a person fourteen years old or older who has the permission of a parent or guardian to do so, from purchasing or possessing a personal protection spray device or from using such a device in a manner consistent with the authorized use of force under RCW 9A.16.020. No town, city, county, special purpose district, quasi-municipal corporation, or other unit of government may prohibit a person eighteen years old or older from delivering a personal protection spray device to a person authorized to possess such a device.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Personal protection spray device" means a commercially available dispensing device designed and intended for use in self-defense and containing a nonlethal sternutator or lacrimator agent, including but not limited to:

(i) Tear gas, the active ingredient of which is either chloracetophenone (CN) or O chlorobenzylidene malonotrile (CS); or

(ii) Other agent commonly known as mace, pepper mace, or pepper gas.

(b) "Delivering" means actual, constructive, or attempted transferring from one person to another.

(4) Nothing in this section authorizes the delivery, purchase, possession, or use of any device or chemical agent that is otherwise prohibited by state law. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 514.]

Ruston WA

9.11.015 TASERs, stun guns and similar devices.

(a) Possession, Sale, or Use Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any individual, person, firm, corporation, or similar entity to sell, give, lend, rent or otherwise transfer to any other individual, person, firm, corporation or similar entity a TASER, stun gun or similar electronic or energy device or weapon which, upon coming in contact with a person is capable of inflicting injury or an electric or energy shock to such person. It shall further be unlawful for any person to possess, fire or discharge such an electronic or energy device or weapon within the Town of Ruston limits.

Ord. 1176 § 1, July 18th, 2005

LEOSA State Information

Eligibility/Certification Process through the WSCJTC

Retired Law Enforcement Officer Firearm Qualification

WA Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs LEOSA Information

Washington State LEOSA Information RCW 36.28A.090

WA Correctional Officers and LEOSA RCW 9.41.060

WA Correctional Officers and LEOSA RCW 9.41.065

WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission LEOSA Information

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

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- **Washington AG - Possession of firearms in facilities used exclusively by schools**
- **Washington AG - Facilities Being Used For School Functions**
- **Washington AG - Opinion on Carry on City Property**
- **Washington Court – Seattle Cannot Ban Firearms in Their Parks**
- **WA Supreme CT – Preemption Overturns Local (Edmonds) Safe Storage Ordinance** (4/2022)
- **WA Supreme CT – Upholds Magazine Ban** (5/10/2025)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Link to State Statutes

Airport Carry: **Parking Lot OK. Terminal OK if Not Posted** **RCW 9.41.300**

Training Valid for: **No set time period**

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

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

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

State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute: **RCW 9.41.073**

State Firearm Laws: **RCW 9.41.010 to 9.41.810 & 9A.56.300 & 42.17.318 & 77.15.460 & 77.108.150**

State Deadly Force Laws: **9A.16.010 thru 9A.16.110**

State Knife Laws: **9.41.250 & 9.41.270**

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: **RCW 9.91.160**

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

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? **NO** **RCW 9.41.070**

State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s: **WA Statute § 9.41.360**

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License

for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? **YES** **RCW 9.41.060 & WAC 220-414-070**

Red Flag Statute: Chapter 7.94.030 through Chapter 7.94.150

Notes

What Does WA Consider A Loaded Firearm?

RCW 9.41.010 Terms Defined.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(31) "Loaded" means:

(a) There is a cartridge in the chamber of the firearm;

(b) Cartridges are in a clip that is locked in place in the firearm;

(c) There is a cartridge in the cylinder of the firearm, if the firearm is a revolver;

(d) There is a cartridge in the tube or magazine that is inserted in the action; or

(e) There is a ball in the barrel and the firearm is capped or primed if the firearm is a muzzle loader.

HB 2320 2026

State Emergency Powers

RCW 43.06.220 State of Emergency — Powers of Governor Pursuant to Proclamation.

(Edited for space considerations)

(1) The governor after proclaiming a state of emergency and prior to terminating such, may, in the area described by the proclamation issue an order prohibiting:

(a) Any person being on the public streets, or in the public parks, or at any other public place during the hours declared by the governor to be a period of curfew;

(b) Any number of persons, as designated by the governor, from assembling or gathering on the public streets, parks, or other open areas of this state, either public or private;

(c) The manufacture, transfer, use, possession or transportation of a molotov cocktail or any other device, instrument or object designed to explode or produce uncontained combustion;

(d) The transporting, possessing or using of gasoline, kerosene, or combustible, flammable, or explosive liquids or materials in a glass or uncapped container of any kind except in connection with the normal operation of motor vehicles, normal home use or legitimate commercial use;

(e) The sale, purchase or dispensing of alcoholic beverages;

(f) The sale, purchase or dispensing of other commodities or goods, as he or she reasonably believes should be prohibited to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace;

(g) The use of certain streets, highways or public ways by the public; and

(h) Such other activities as he or she reasonably believes should be prohibited to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace.

(2) The governor after proclaiming a state of emergency and prior to terminating such may, in the area described by the proclamation, issue an order or orders concerning waiver or suspension of statutory obligations or limitations in any or all of the following areas:

(a) Liability for participation in interlocal agreements;

(b) Inspection fees owed to the department of labor and industries;

(c) Application of the family emergency assistance program;

(d) Regulations, tariffs, and notice requirements under the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission;

(e) Application of tax due dates and penalties relating to collection of taxes; and

(f) Permits for industrial, business, or medical uses of alcohol.

(g) Such other statutory and regulatory obligations or limitations prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency if strict compliance with the provision of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency, unless

(i) authority to waive or suspend a specific statutory or regulatory obligation or limitation has been expressly granted to another statewide elected official,

(ii) the waiver or suspension would conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, or

(iii) the waiver or suspension would conflict with the rights, under the First Amendment, of freedom of speech or of the people to peaceably assemble. The governor shall give as much notice as practical to legislative leadership and impacted local governments when issuing orders under this subsection (2)(g)

(3) In imposing the restrictions provided for by RCW 43.06.010, and 43.06.200 through 43.06.270, the governor may impose them for such times, upon such conditions, with such exceptions and in such areas of this state he or she from time to time deems necessary.

(4) No order or orders concerning waiver or suspension of statutory obligations or limitations under subsection (2) of this section may continue for longer than thirty days unless extended by the legislature through concurrent resolution. If the legislature is not in session, the waiver or suspension of statutory obligations or limitations may be extended in writing by the leadership of the senate and the house of representatives until the legislature can extend the waiver or suspension by concurrent resolution. For purposes of this section, "leadership of the senate and the house of representatives" means the majority and minority leaders of the senate and the speaker and the minority leader of the house of representatives.

(5) Any person willfully violating any provision of an order issued by the governor under this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. 2019 c 472 § 2

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

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

Washington 18 Y/O RCW 9.41.042 RCW 9.41.060 RCW 9.41.240 RCW 9.41.050

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.

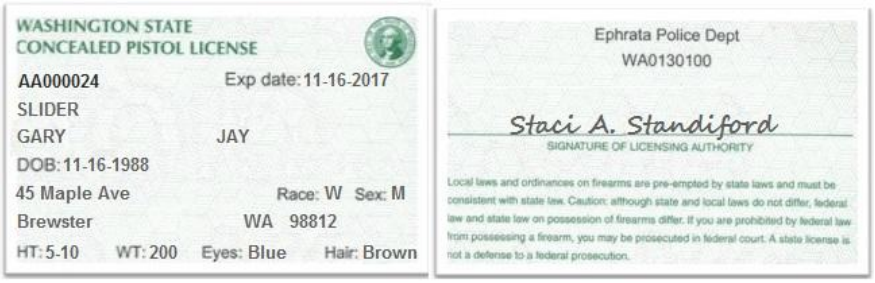
Note: In some states Possession and Transportation CAN be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

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

In Washington local officials issue licenses. Washington licenses can have a different format depending on the county that issued the license. The back of the license is blank.





This image has been digitally assembled. It is not 100% accurate but gives a good representation of the actual Permit/License. I will update it as more info becomes available. I have been told it is still paper but can be folded and laminated. It will be the same size as the Drivers License. Some Sheriffs may continue to issue the previous edition of the Washington CPL.

Updates to this Page

120 Links*

Archive of Previous Updates 4

.

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.
10/1/2024 - State Red Flag Statute Added to Airport Carry/Misc. Information Section.
11/4/2024 – Spokane Ordinance Updated in Open Carry Section.
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.
4/1/2025 – How to Apply/Where Link Added to Links Section.
5/10/2025 – Washington Supreme Court Upholds Magazine Ban Ruling Added to AG Opinions/Ct Case Section.
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.
3/20/2026 - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed. On This Date All Statutes Quoted Checked and are Latest Version of That Statute.
6/7/2026 – All Links Checked.
9/5/2026 – All Links Checked.