

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Minnesota
Bureau

Permit to Carry a Pistol in Minnesota FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These answers are for information purposes only, further clarification of the law may be addressed by referring directly to Minnesota State Statute 624.714

1. **Where can I get a permit to carry a pistol?**

For Minnesota residents, individuals may obtain permits to carry a pistol by submitting an application and other related documentation to the sheriff in the county where the applicant resides. Non-residents may apply to any Minnesota county sheriff.

2. **What are the requirements for getting a permit to carry?**

- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Must complete an application form.
- Must not be prohibited from possessing a firearm.
- Must not be listed in the criminal gang investigation system.
- Must be a resident of the county from which you are requesting a permit if you reside in Minnesota. Non-residents may apply to any Minnesota county sheriff.
- Must provide certificate of completed authorized firearms training. Training by a certified instructor and completed within one year prior to applying for a permit to carry.

3. **How long do I have to wait to get my permit?**

The county sheriff must either issue or deny a permit within 30 days of the application date.

4. **How long is my permit valid?**

Permits are valid for five (5) years from the date of issuance.

5. **How do I renew my permit?**

Permits may be renewed at the issuing county sheriff's office within 90 days of the expiration date of the current permit.

6. **Where can I get an application?**

Applications will be available at the county sheriff's office and on the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's website:
<http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/CarryPermit/PermittoCarry.html>

7. Where is my Minnesota permit valid?

Minnesota permits are valid throughout the state of Minnesota.

Individuals interested in determining whether a Minnesota permit to carry is valid in another state should contact that state directly to determine what the carry laws are. You may also find other resources on the Internet to assist you.

8. What would prevent me from getting a permit to carry?

Any applicant who does not meet the criteria as listed in number 2 above is not eligible for a permit to carry a pistol. The sheriff may also deny the application if there is a substantial likelihood that the applicant is a danger to himself/herself or others if issued a permit to carry.

9. What is the cost for a permit to carry?

The fee for a permit to carry will be determined by the county sheriff, not to exceed \$100.

10. Where am I prohibited from carrying my pistol?

- School property.
- A childcare center while children are present
- In the vicinity of a school bus occupied by children.
- Public colleges and universities - may have policy restricting the carrying of weapons on their premises by employees and students while on campus.
- Private establishments that have posted a sign banning guns on their premises.
- Private establishments who have personally informed the permit holder that guns are prohibited and demands compliance.
- Places of employment, public or private, if employer restricts the carry or possession of firearms by its employees.

11. Do I need to have my permit with me when carrying my pistol?

Yes, the permit holder must have the permit card and a driver's license, state identification card, or other government-issued photo identification in immediate possession at all times when carrying a pistol and must display the permit card and identification document when requested by a peace officer.

12. What happens with my old permit?

Any one-year permit remains in effect and is valid under the terms of issuance until the date of expiration applicable at the time of issuance. However, a person holding a one-year permit who meets the requirements stated in number 2 above may apply for a permit under the new law.

13. Can I get an emergency permit to carry?

Emergency permits may be issued by the sheriff if he/she determines that the person is in an emergency situation that may constitute an immediate risk to the safety of the person or someone residing in the person's household.

14. Can private establishments prohibit carrying pistols on their premises?

Yes, private establishments must post a notice banning guns on their premises or personally notifying patrons that guns are not allowed.

15. Can I prohibit firearms in my private residence?

The owner of the residence may prohibit firearms in their home.

16. Can my landlord restrict me from carrying or possessing firearms on residence premises?

Landlords may not restrict the lawful carry or possession of firearms by tenants or their guests.

17. Can my employer prohibit carrying pistols in the work place?

Yes, an employer may establish policies that restrict the carry or possession of firearms by its employees while the employee is working.

18. Can I apply for a permit to carry if I am not a U.S. citizen but have permanent resident status in the United States?

Yes, when you apply you will need to provide the sheriff with your **I-551** or **I-151** card, whichever one you have been issued.

19. Do I have to disclose to a peace officer that I am a permit holder and carrying a firearm?

Yes, upon request of a peace officer, a permit holder must disclose to the officer whether or not the permit holder is currently carrying a firearm.

20. Can active licensed officers carry in private establishments?

Yes, active licensed peace officers, or security guards acting in the course and scope of employment, may carry firearms in private establishments.

21. Are predatory offenders prohibited from obtaining a permit to carry?

Yes. It is a misdemeanor for a person required to register as a predatory offender to carry a pistol.

22. What are the federal laws that govern retired officers carrying firearms?

The law governing retired officers is the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. In addition, United States Code Chapter 44, Title 18, Section 926 C, Carrying of Concealed Firearms by Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers, applies. Minnesota retired officers must meet the criteria found on the Minnesota POST Board website located at

<http://www.dps.state.mn.us/newpost/posthome.asp>

23. **If I am a permit holder from another state traveling in or visiting Minnesota and I do not have a permit to carry that is recognized by Minnesota, where can I legally store my firearm while in Minnesota?**

Transporting firearms without a permit requires the person to have the unloaded cased firearm in the trunk of the vehicle. For details on transporting firearms, refer to Minnesota Statute 97B.045, Transportation of Firearms.

24. **If I am a resident of a state that does not have reciprocity with Minnesota but have a permit to carry from a state that does, may I carry in Minnesota?**

Yes.

25. **Can a non-resident mail in a permit to carry application or obtain a Minnesota permit to carry without physically being present.**

No. Applications must be submitted in person to a Minnesota county sheriff.

26. **After my five-year permit to carry expires, do I need to retake the approved firearms training class before I apply for a renewal permit?**

Yes. Applicants must present evidence that they have received training in the safe use of a pistol within one year of the date of an original or renewal application.

27. **Is there a public list of gun permit holders?**

No. This is private data and is not available to the public.

28. **Can I obtain a list or call local law enforcement to find out individuals in my community who have a permit to carry?**

No. This is private data and is not available to the public.

29. **Does the address on my permit to carry need to match the address on my driver's license?**

No. However, a permit holder is required to notify the issuing sheriff's office within 30 days of a permanent address change. Failure to do so is a petty misdemeanor. The permit holder may obtain an updated permit at a cost of \$10.

30. **Where can I find a list of approved firearm training classes?**

The BCA no longer publishes a list of firearm instructors on the web site. The Minnesota Sheriff's Association has volunteered to list the instructors on its web site, once the instructional organizations provide them with the updated list.

31. **If I am a non-resident, must I take an approved firearms training class in Minnesota in order to get a Minnesota permit to carry?**

No. You are only required to present evidence that you have received training in the safe use of a pistol from an organization or government entity that has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety in accordance with the department's standards.

32. **If I have a permit to carry a pistol do I have to conceal the pistol?**

No. Minnesota's Personal Protection Act is a permit to carry law, not a conceal

and carry law.

33. How can I legally transport a firearm from one place to another without obtaining a permit to carry?

Transporting firearms without a permit requires the person to have the firearm unloaded and fully enclosed in a case made to contain a firearm. For full details on transporting firearms, refer to Minnesota Statute 97B.045, Transportation of Firearms.

Home Pages: [BCA Home Page](#); [Department of Public Safety](#); [Administrative Services](#), [Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement](#); [Driver and Vehicle Services](#); [Emergency Management](#); [Fire Marshal](#); [State Patrol](#); [Traffic Safety](#)