

Virginia



Concealed Carry Laws

- What to do if you get pulled over.
- What to do if someone sees your gun and calls the police.
- What to do after you use your gun to protect yourself.
- What to do if you draw your gun on someone, and then they run away.

Legal Disclaimer

Friends, we have put in an awful lot of hours making sure that the information contained within this packet is accurate. We've checked state laws websites, consulted lawyers, and even made phone calls to local jurisdictions when the laws were unclear.

Still, I strongly encourage you to do your own research in your locale.

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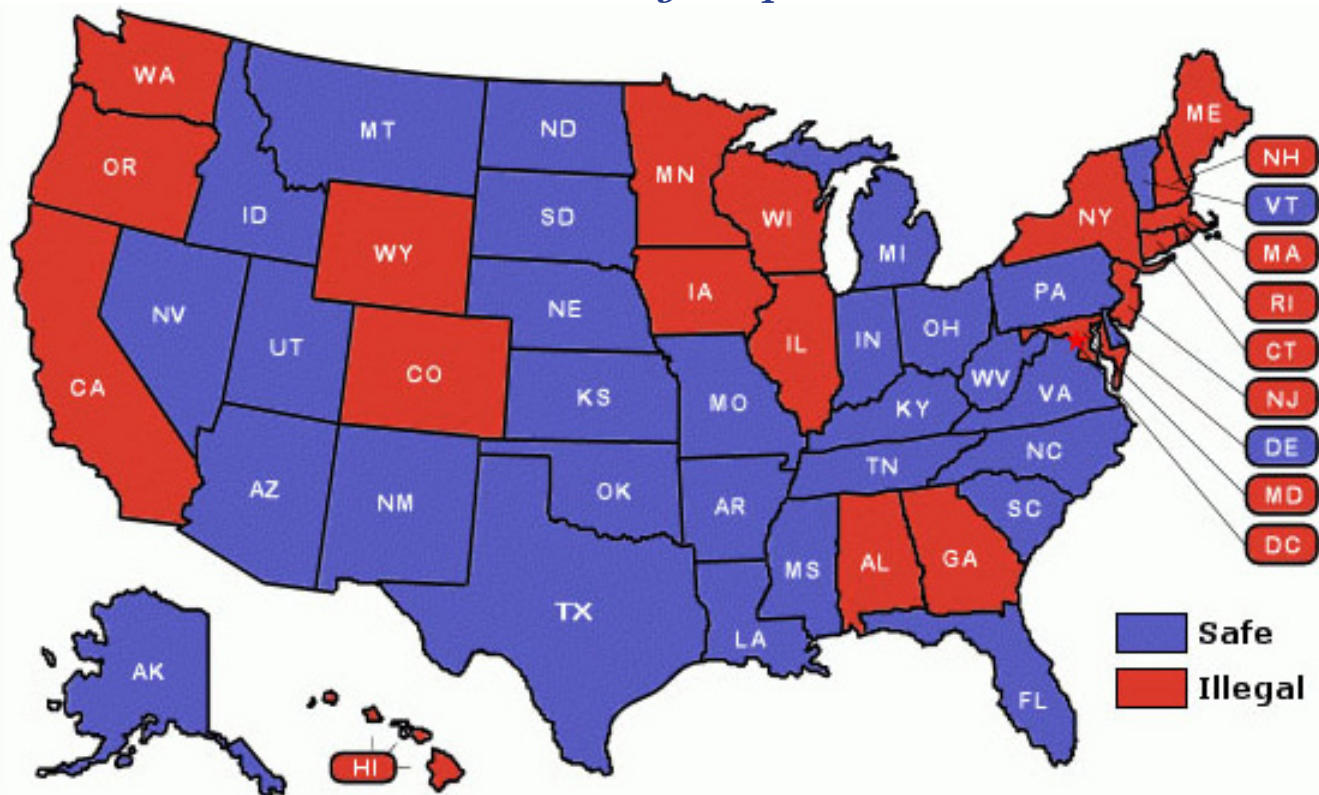
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BONUS!

Concealed Carry Permit Reciprocity

Where in the U.S.A. your permit is valid...



Make sure your information is current! This is just a snap-shot of the reciprocity map that is constantly updated on the USCCA's website: www.USConcealedCarry.com

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Know YOUR Rights: Legal Defense Environment

Where and when you can and cannot legally defend yourself...

Virginia is NOT a CASTLE DOCTRINE state, and you DO have a "duty to retreat". This means that, before you are legally able to resort to defending yourself with deadly force, you must first exhaust all "reasonable" options of escaping the situation or confrontation.

In other words, if someone jumps you with a knife on the street and you react with your

handgun, you must be able to prove in court that you could not possibly have run away. Most states began with laws similar to this, but lately, we are seeing more "stand your ground" laws being passed- which is a very good thing for innocent, honest people. Call your legislators!

Gun Free Zones...

Every state has certain places you simply CANNOT legally carry a concealed weapon.

Do you know where all of those places are in your state?

You may not legally carry your pistol while at a school or on school property, into a court-room, while in a licensed day-care center, a child-placement agency, a sports arena or stadium, a bar or tavern licensed to serve liquor (restaurants that serve alcohol are generally not included), a church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of religious worship, inside any entertainment facility seating more than 2,500 people, a hospital, dormitory or classroom of a college or university, or inside a casino. It is okay to carry (or leave your gun) in the



Sometimes the signs aren't up... You are still required to obey the law.

parking lot of most of these facilities, but you should double-check the specifics with each facility first.

Federal law also prohibits you from carrying your firearm into any federal building as well, which includes post offices.



Applying For A CCW License

Where can I find the requirements and instructions?

In most states, the County Sheriff (and sometimes the county clerk's office) is where you begin your process of applying for a concealed carry permit. You generally have to pick up and fill out an application (which usually includes a fee and the requirement that you include a portrait photo of yourself), and then return it to the Sheriff's Department or Clerk's office. At that point, you wait until your application is reviewed, and you either get a letter telling you that your application has been rejected, or that it has been accepted, and you can return to the office to pick it up. If your permit has been rejected, the rejection letter will give you instructions on how to contest the decision. For a complete and thorough list of your state's requirements for applying for a concealed carry permit, go here:

http://www.vsp.state.va.us/Firearms_StateLaws.shtm

Frequently Asked CCW Questions

1 *What do I do if I am pulled over while legally carrying concealed?*

Many states require that the permit holder hand the officer *both* the driver's license **and** the concealed carry permit during a traffic stop. Some states do not require this, but we think it's always a good idea to let the officer know that you're armed.

Since officers do not commonly ask for "Driver's license, insurance, registration and concealed carry permit", you must simply hand the officer the permit and politely say, "Also, I have a concealed carry permit, and I am indeed carrying at the moment."

The officer may ask you to step out of the vehicle, but this is very rare. Even more rare, is an officer who asks you to hand him the weapon, but it has happened.

Police officers are our friends, and fellow warriors. Obey their instructions at all times.



A routine traffic stop could turn into serious legal problems if you don't know your responsibilities...



Even the best of us make mistakes... What will you do if someone sees your 'concealed' handgun?

2 *What do I do if someone sees my gun and calls the police?*

An accidental slip-up is not *brandishing*. To brandish a firearm is seen as waving the gun about, or 'making the presence of the firearm known in a threatening manner'. But, the cops will come, and they will probably be excited. This is serious business that should be avoided but if it happens, keep a cool head and present yourself as a responsible person that has made an honest mistake.

Flight equals guilt, so don't leave the area. Wait for the police to arrive and calmly explain what happened. Remember, they get *man with a gun* calls... they do **not** get *armed citizen* calls. Stand with your hands open in front of you and credentials ready as the police arrive. It will be an uncomfortable situation, and you may be disarmed. Just keep a level head, and remember that the officers are only doing their job. Be respectful, and you will be respected.

Frequently Asked CCW Questions



3 *Are there any firearms restrictions in place for handguns?*

Fortunately, Virginia is largely a free state, and there are no restrictions on magazine capacity, caliber, or ammunition type.

Does your state have magazine capacity restrictions?

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4 *What should I do after I use my gun to defend myself?*

Call 9-1-1, and say “I was afraid for my life, and was forced to defend myself. Please send an ambulance right away”, then wait for the police to arrive. Try to remain as calm as possible. If the assailant is no longer a threat, then you may wish to take cover and holster the weapon. The police will arrive as quickly as possible, usually just a few minutes. When they arrive, say “He attacked me”, and “I’ll sign a complaint”. Point out as much evidence as you can, but tell the police “I need to talk to my lawyer and I do not consent to any search.”



What actions must you take to avoid legal issues?

At this point do not be drawn into a long conversation. You will make mistakes. A simple mistake such as miscounting the number of rounds you have fired may resound later and make you appear dishonest. After a traumatic event like defending yourself from a violent attack, you may say things you wish you could take back. **It is better not to say anything more than what you absolutely must.**

Be certain that you present yourself as the victim, as you wish to be in the ‘victim slot’ on the police report (This is a very important technicality). Be as calm as possible and let the police do their work.

Frequently Asked CCW Questions

5 *What should I do if I draw my gun on someone who threatens me, and then they run away?*

In these situations, it is important that you call 9-1-1 to report the incident. There are a couple reasons for this, and the first is because it is possible that the person you just pulled your gun on may call the police on you! If this happens, you're going to be treated like an armed and dangerous criminal, and it will not be a comfortable experience.

The other reason is that you are an eyewitness (and victim) to a crime and you may be able to identify the criminals who attempted to assault or rob you. If you can help put them in jail, you may save another innocent person's life down the road.

When you call, tell the police that you were assaulted or nearly so, and explain the crime and that you were afraid for your life, and how you thwarted it. You need a paper trail, in case you somehow end up in court over the incident. After all, the criminals may attempt to extract revenge at a later date and it is good to have a report in your favor ready, instead of having to try to explain the back story.



*You drew your gun and scared your attacker away...
Now what?*

How Is Your Handgun Accuracy?

Want to become a better shot?

As if this information packet wasn't enough, we'd like to help you become a better shot over night. We've assembled a small written report with some key techniques, tips, and tricks that we'd like you to have. Consider it our little way of thanking you for being an armed citizen! To claim your copy, just go here:

www.OvernightAccuracy.com