

CONCEALED CARRY MAP



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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- California
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- Delaware
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- Hawaii
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- Louisiana
- Maine
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- Massachusetts
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- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

● **Shall Issue:** States that require a license or permit to carry concealed, issued without bias

● **May Issue:** States that require a license or permit to carry concealed, issued at the discretion of local authorities

WHY CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON?

In a world that seems to get more dangerous every day, a little forethought can go a long way when it comes to defending your loved ones.

Many honest citizens know that when seconds count, the police are minutes away — at best. These honest citizens take responsibility for their own safety and choose to carry concealed weapons to protect themselves and their loved ones. They are not vigilantes, they are not cowboys or wanna-be cops, and they are certainly not wanna-be killers. They are people who realize that life and family are worth protecting in a dangerous world, and they want to have a fighting chance should crime come unbidden to them. By doing so, they protect not only their own lives but also the lives of those around them. They do this by being a deterrent to those who would do them harm.

Before 1987 (when Florida laws set the standard for allowing shall-issue concealed carry permits),

criminals knew it was very unlikely that their would-be victims were armed. Not anymore! With the majority of states now being shall issue, and with more citizens carrying guns for protection on more American streets, criminals cannot possibly know who is armed and who is not. This deters criminals and contributes to a decreasing trend in violent crime nationwide.

While the missions of a police officer and an armed citizen are different, guns in the hands of trained citizens can be just as effective against sudden attack as guns in the hands of trained police. The difference is that a responsibly armed citizen has the gun he or she carries immediately at hand when danger strikes and doesn't need to wait minutes or even hours for help to arrive. Most honest cops will tell you that when they are called for help, they usually arrive after the danger has passed.

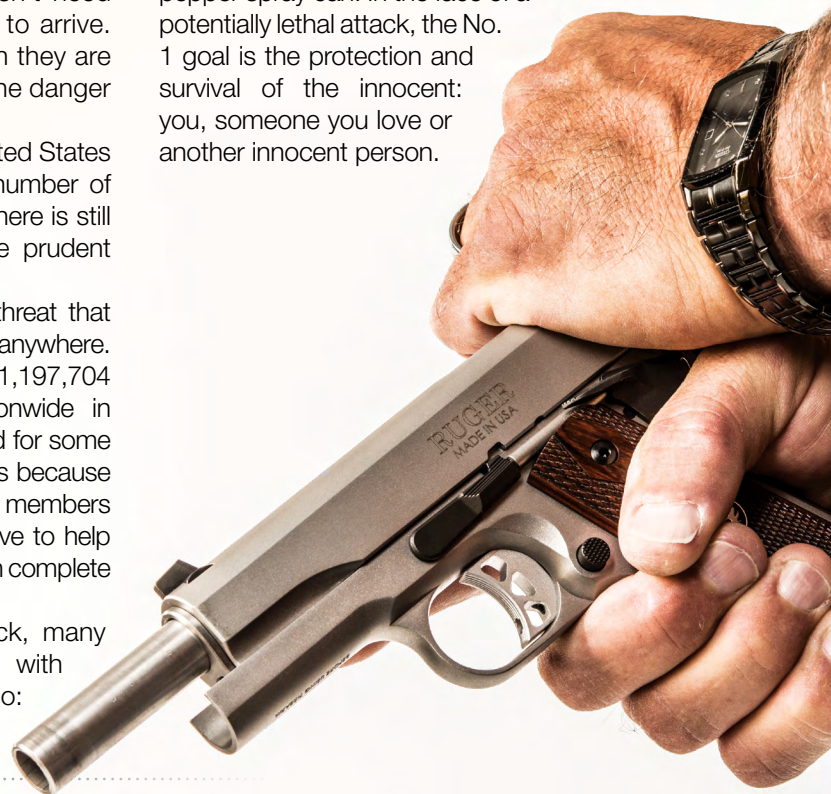
Violent crime has gone down in the United States for the last several decades, while the number of guns in civilian hands has gone up. But there is still more than enough violent crime to give prudent citizens cause for alarm.

Violent crime is still a real threat that can strike anyone — anytime, anywhere. FBI statistics show there were 1,197,704 violent crimes reported nationwide in 2015. These numbers are hard for some of us to understand, but that is because we are rational, law-abiding members of society. We are the sheepdogs that have to help protect our loved ones, our friends and even complete strangers from the wolves out there.

Facing the prospect of criminal attack, many citizens choose to arm themselves with handguns for the same reason police do:

to protect themselves and others from deadly danger. Handguns are more convenient for full-time carry than are rifles or shotguns, and, especially considering modern ammunition, those handguns can be very effective for defensive purposes. There are other options for personal protection, such as empty-hand martial arts, knives or less-lethal devices such as pepper spray and noisemakers. Such devices are sometimes less effective at quickly and decisively stopping an aggressor though, and they have the added disadvantage of needing to be used at close-contact range if they are to be effective at all. By contrast, a firearm delivers a powerful deterrent blow from a safer distance than a knife or pepper spray can. In the face of a potentially lethal attack, the No. 1 goal is the protection and survival of the innocent: you, someone you love or another innocent person.

1,197,704
VIOLENT CRIMES
REPORTED
NATIONWIDE
IN 2015



WHAT ABOUT THE LAWS?

Concealed carry legislation is young and constantly evolving.

Until 1934, guns were unregulated in the United States. That was the year the National Firearms Act made it illegal to possess a machine gun without paying a \$200 excise tax to the U.S. Treasury. Interestingly, Congress did not attempt to prohibit the possession, manufacture or sale of machine guns, instead opting to discourage and thus limit their ownership through the federal government's taxing authority. The equivalent of \$200 in 1934 is about \$3,277 today. Why do it that way? Simply because, at that time, few people, including lawyers, judges and legal scholars, questioned that the Second Amendment meant what it said about the right of the people to keep and bear arms not being infringed.

That changed when the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA68) passed in the wake of the John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinations. To own a gun today, you must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident alien. Persons prohibited from owning firearms under GCA68 include:

- Those convicted of felonies and certain misdemeanors, except where state law reinstates rights or removes disability
- Fugitives from justice

- Unlawful users of certain depressant, narcotic or stimulant drugs
- Those adjudicated as mental defectives or incompetents or those committed to any mental institution and currently suffering a dangerous mental illness
- Non-U.S. citizens, unless permanently immigrating into the U.S. or in possession of a hunting license legally issued in the U.S.
- Illegal aliens
- Those who have renounced U.S. citizenship
- Minors, defined as under the age of 18, with the exception of those in Vermont, eligible at the age of 16 (applies to long guns and handguns)
- Persons convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence
- Persons under indictment for a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year (ineligible to receive, transport or ship any firearm or ammunition)

As long as you are not in one of the prohibited categories, you are federally eligible to own firearms in the U.S. and to apply for a concealed carry permit in most states.

State and local laws regarding gun ownership vary. Most closely follow federal requirements, but some do not. Check the law in your state for the particular requirements and follow them scrupulously. For a complete listing of each state's permitting process, the specifics of gun ownership and concealed carry regulations, visit USCCA.com/travel.

With Illinois being the final state in the nation to approve and enact concealed carry legislation, all 50 states now allow some form of concealed carry. Several states allow constitutional carry (concealed carry without a state-issued permit); some of these

states still allow citizens to voluntarily apply for a concealed carry permit.

Most of the states in our nation are officially shall-issue states. In shall-issue states, the requirements for getting a concealed carry permit are laid down by law. If you meet the requirements, the state shall issue you a permit. Your right to carry in these states cannot be thwarted by a lone bureaucrat.

Unfortunately, several states practice may-issue permitting when it comes to concealed carry. May-issue states also have a list of requirements laid down by law, but when you meet those requirements, the state may issue your permit, or it may not, if that's what the pertinent authorities decide. Some states are shall issue in practice but may issue by law. That being said, legal wrangling in certain areas continues to make it difficult for law-abiding citizens to acquire the proper permits.



CAN I CARRY EVERYWHERE I GO?

Knowing the law is as important as being able to hit your target.

Concealed carry permits are not recognized everywhere. The federal government and all states have places where they do not allow any firearms, much less concealed ones, regardless of the permits you have. The off-limits places usually include, but are not limited to, courtrooms, jails, police stations, school zones and the sterile area of airports. Every jurisdiction has its own rules.

Unlike a driver's license, states are not required to honor concealed carry permits issued by other states (although some states do have reciprocal agreements with other states that have similar laws). Because of this, and because the off-limits areas differ from one place to another, you will need to be prudent when traveling outside your home territory.

If you're interested in the subject of traveling with a firearm, check out "Seeing the USA While Legally Armed" (USCCA.com/seeing-the-usa-while-legally-armed) from a past issue of *Concealed Carry Magazine* or "Traveling With Firearms" (USCCA.com/traveling-flying-with-firearms) from the *Pacifiers & Peacemakers* blog on the USCCA website.

A concealed carry reciprocity map that includes thorough coverage of state laws governing concealed carry for all 50 states and the District of Columbia can be found at USCCA.com/travel.

Thanks to the dramatic increase in the number of concealed carry permits and rising public demand, many states have, as mentioned earlier, established reciprocity procedures that allow concealed carry permits issued by one state to be honored in some other states. The list of those states that honor permits from other states (and which permits they honor) is constantly changing. Before you travel outside your own state, you should *always* check to see if your carry permit is valid where you are going. You should also brush up on the rules of concealed carry in that jurisdiction.

The USCCA maintains reciprocity information in a handy map found at USCCA.com/travel. The Reciprocity Map is a powerful tool for you to use and is always available to reference prior to traveling across any state lines.

GETTING YOUR CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT

If you live in a state that shall issue, your task is simple: Find out the legal requirements for a concealed carry permit, meet them, apply for your permit and enjoy your new concealed carry privileges.

Shall-issue states typically have eligibility requirements pertaining to:

- Age
- Residency
- Substance-abuse history
- Criminal history (felonies are an automatic disqualifier, as are domestic-violence convictions)
- Firearms possession
- Training in the legal use of force, self-defense laws and marksmanship instruction
- Firearms proficiency

If you live in a may-issue state, getting a concealed carry permit is more difficult, and the outcome is far from certain. Most may-issue states have criteria similar to shall-issue states, but some do not. Find out the requirements of your locality, try to meet them and hope you get your permit. If you don't (and if your jurisdiction has an appeal process), appeal the adverse decision as far as the system (and your resources) allow.



TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

Flying with your sidearm is legal, but it can present its own challenges. It is imperative that you know and understand all laws and regulations surrounding traveling with a gun.

OK, *I know that a pistol must be in a secure case with a TSA-approved lock in order to fly with it in checked baggage.*

My question is this: Is there a section stating that ammo can also be in that same secure case with the pistol? Can the ammunition be in a loaded magazine, or does it have to be in its original packaging? Would a Gun-Vault or similar device be sufficient?

Art, via email

Art,

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Feds are a little ambiguous on this one. According to the TSA website (TSA.gov), "Travelers must securely pack any ammunition in fiber (such as cardboard), wood or metal boxes or other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition. Firearms magazines and ammunition clips must be securely boxed or included within a hard-sided case containing an unload-

ed firearm. Small arms ammunition, including ammunition not exceeding .75 caliber for a rifle or pistol and shotgun shells of any gauge, may be carried in the same hard-sided case as the firearm as long as it follows the packing guidelines described above."

So, even though I would consult the website personally and possibly make a phone call to a TSA agent or a 2A attorney, it certainly seems that you would be within your rights to transport loaded magazines in the same lockable hard-sided case as you are transporting the unloaded firearm — provided that they are packed "in fiber (such as cardboard), wood or metal boxes or other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition."

That said, I will be packing my ammunition in original factory boxes simply to streamline my travel and minimize my chances of running afoul of a TSA agent who maybe hasn't done his or her homework.

Stay safe.

Ed Combs
Senior Editor
Concealed Carry Magazine



WHAT TO SAY TO THE POLICE IF YOU ARE FORCED TO DEFEND YOURSELF WITH A GUN

In the event that you are forced to defend yourself against a lethal threat, the next few moments are extremely important.

Some individuals claim that the best thing to do after you're forced to shoot in self-defense is to "not say a word until your lawyer is present." This is a recipe for disaster. If you are forced to defend yourself, even if you're just forced to draw your gun, you need to dial 911 immediately and report to the police exactly what happened. In the vast majority of cases, the first party to contact law enforcement is seen by the justice system as the victim, so make that call right away.

After the police arrive, it is imperative that you no longer be holding your gun and that you

physically cooperate with them in every way. You will likely be handcuffed, and you might even be placed in a police car until the law enforcement officers can physically secure the scene of the shooting and figure out what happened. Here's where what you say and how you say it become so consequential.

As soon as you have the opportunity, you need to alert responding law enforcement that you were attacked with deadly force, that you were in fear for your life and that you shot because it was your only course of action to prevent the loss of life. Point out evidence, point out witnesses and never forget that law enforcement officers are tired, overworked and can miss things. Point out those cartridge cases on the ground because the EMT

who's coming in to see if you're hurt might kick them away otherwise. Point out the witnesses who recorded the shooting on their cellphones because they might not just walk up out of the crowd and volunteer to tell the police what they just saw.

After you've given the law enforcement officers the bare bones of what happened — you were attacked with deadly force and in direct fear for your life and responded accordingly — you need to tell them that you intend to cooperate fully but will need to have a lawyer present to say any more than you already have. Remember: If cops are forced to shoot someone, they're spirited away from news cameras and given time to cool down and collect their thoughts before telling their side of the story. You need to do the same.





ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES?

If you are forced to defend yourself with a firearm, you can unfortunately expect things to get worse before they get better.

Self-defense with a gun is a fight for survival. The stakes are, literally, life or death. Nothing less justifies using deadly force. But no one really wins a gunfight. The best you can do — the very best you can hope to achieve in a defensive gun situation — is to keep what you have: your life, your well-being and the lives and well-beings of your loved ones. There will be consequences of your use of deadly force for self-defense, even if it is successful. One of those consequences is having to live the rest of your life knowing you've seriously injured or taken the life of another human being. There can also be serious criminal and civil consequences for even the most justified of self-defense shootings. These consequences can best be summarized by observ-

ing that there are three separate and distinct problems associated with a defensive gun use. They are:

- 1 **Surviving the gunfight**
- 2 **Surviving the criminal justice system**
- 3 **Surviving the civil justice system**

Surviving the gunfight might be the easiest of your problems, but it is by far the most important. If you don't survive, there's nothing else for you to worry about — at least not in this life. That makes surviving the gunfight priority No. 1. You do that by being a responsible gun owner, being a responsible gun carrier and working diligently to achieve a level of skill with your firearm so that you are in the best possible position to prevail if ever you must struggle for your life.

***THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN A DEFENSIVE GUN SITUATION IS TO KEEP WHAT YOU HAVE:
YOUR LIFE, YOUR WELL-BEING AND THE LIVES AND WELL-BEINGS OF YOUR LOVED ONES.***

· COURT · HOUSE ·

SURVIVING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

You will absolutely, positively deal with the police after a defensive gun use. They will, in all likelihood, respond to the location of the shooting and treat it as a crime scene. They will treat you as a criminal suspect until (and unless) they determine differently.

You will likely be handcuffed, you might spend a night (or more) in jail, and you will most definitely need to explain and defend your actions to the criminal justice system (the police, prosecutors and possibly a jury of your peers). How well you do that (and the resources you might

or might not have at your disposal to help you through that process) will have monumental effects on the rest of your life.

Even the most justifiable shooting can be cast in a bad light by sloppy police work, by an anti-gun prosecutor looking to make a name for himself by hanging your scalp on his belt or by you if you cannot convincingly articulate why you resorted to deadly force at that place and time. If the police or prosecutor decides criminal charges against you are appropriate, you must defend against those charges.

Even a losing criminal defense is expensive, and even bad lawyers don't work cheap. The average criminal defense costs around \$100,000 — and it can be much more, depending on the nature and complexity of your case.

While a defense against criminal charges might not be necessary in your case, it might well be. These things can never be predicted in advance, but they must be thoroughly considered before you decide to carry a concealed firearm for self-defense and far before you're forced to pull the trigger.

SURVIVING THE CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Have you ever heard the common warning, “If you shoot someone, you WILL get sued”? Unfortunately, this statement is not far from the truth. Assuming you survive the gunfight and your encounter with the criminal justice system, the criminal or his surviving family might sue you for using a gun to defend yourself.

If you are sued, you must defend yourself against the suit or you lose by default.

The standard of proof required to win a civil suit is not beyond a reasonable doubt like it is in a criminal trial. Not even close. The standard is by a preponderance of the evidence, which is much lower. That means that even if you survive the gunfight and then survive the criminal trial unscathed, you could still lose the civil lawsuit.

That’s right: Even after you have been successful in criminal court, you can still be found liable for damages in civil court.

That’s why the USCCA offers its members the Self-Defense SHIELD — legal and financial protection that provides upfront funding to find and retain a qualified lawyer who can defend your good name and your livelihood.

Keep in mind that the full legal aftermath of a defensive gun use, with its range of possibilities and how to prepare for them, is far more than can be explained here. Still, it is something you must consider — and consider well — as you weigh whether carrying a concealed weapon is right for you.



If you’re forced to use a weapon in defense of yourself or your loved ones, the USCCA does not want to see you become a victim of the courts. That’s why they’ve developed legal and financial protection called Self-Defense SHIELD. Depending on your level of membership, this benefit will provide you with upfront funding to find and retain an experienced attorney who will work hard to protect you.

You can learn more about Self-Defense SHIELD at [USCCA.com](https://www.uscca.com)





**“I was thinking
I literally may
have just cost
us everything...”**

Charged for Defending Himself
With Pepper Spray...

Brad Ensign, USCCA Member

Brad was forced to defend himself with pepper spray during a road-rage attack. But when the police arrived, HE was the one charged with assault! That’s when the USCCA stepped in to help...

USCCA Membership provides you with the education, training and legal protection you’ll need in the aftermath of your use of ANY legal weapon in self-defense. Arm yourself with a USCCA Membership today to unlock lifesaving information, top-notch training and complete peace of mind.

Because, after all, ***doing the right thing shouldn’t cost you everything...***



Join USCCA Today to Get Complete ***Peace of Mind...***

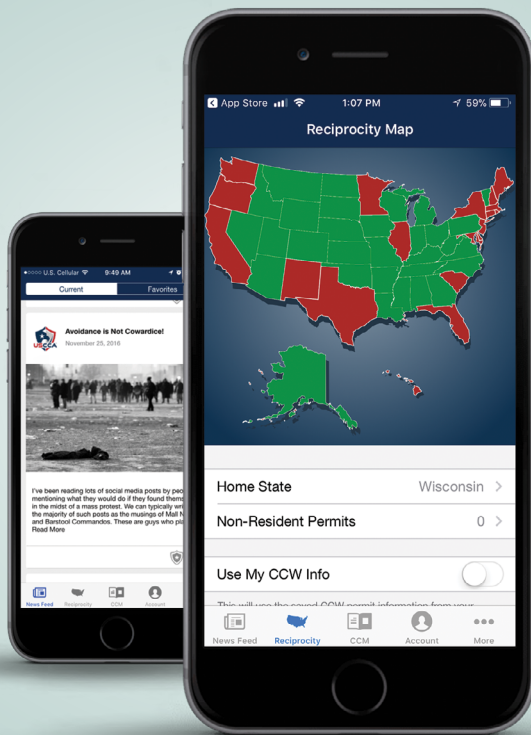
www.USCCA.com/Join

Or call our Wisconsin-based team at 877-677-1919

Self-Defense SHIELD Protection Plan Benefits are subject to certain terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions. See Membership Agreement for details.



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