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Firearms Licensing: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How old must you be to obtain a License to Carry a Firearm?

A: Applicants must be 21 years of age.

Q: How long is a License to Carry a Firearm valid for?

A: A License to Carry Firearms is valid for a period of 5 years.

Q: What is the Fee when I apply for a License to Carry Firearms?

A: The license fee is \$20.00. Cash or money order accepted.

Q: How long will it take to process my application?

A: It may take up to 45 days to process. Generally you will get your new permit issued on the spot. Otherwise you will be notified by phone when your permit is approved and you can pick it up at the Sheriff's Office.

Q: What do I need to bring with me to apply for a License to Carry Firearms?

A: A valid Photo ID with a correct current address. Two references with their addresses and phone numbers. \$20.00 due upon applying.

Q: If I move to another county in PA, what do I need to do with regards to my License to Carry?

A: Your license to carry is valid throughout Pennsylvania. You do not need to get a new license with your new address on it; however, you shall notify the Sheriff's Office of your change of address.

Q: When may I carry my firearm in my vehicle?

A: A valid License to Carry Firearms is required to carry a handgun in a vehicle, except in specific situations. An unloaded, securely wrapped handgun may be carried without a license when changing residences, when going to and from target practice, or to and from one's home to a vacation or recreational home. Rifle and shotguns may be carried in a vehicle as long as they are unloaded.

Q: If I have a Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms, where can't I carry my firearm?

A: Your License to Carry Firearms does not exempt you from obeying any local statutes or ordinances governing behavior with firearms. Some examples of places where your License to Carry Firearms does not authorize you to carry your firearms are: On federal property, court facilities, school district property, posting of no firearms allowed, and any place which is prohibited by state law to carry a firearm. Also, you are prohibited to carry a firearm on any private property which has a written policy prohibiting firearms on premises.

Q: Do I need to go to a Pennsylvania Licensed Firearms Dealer to sell my handgun to a friend?

A: Handgun transfers must take place through a Pennsylvania Licensed Firearms dealer. Transfers between spouses, parents, and children do not need to go through a dealer.

Q: Do I need a License for target shooting?

A: No. You must transport the weapon(s) to and from the range unloaded. Transport the ammunition in a separate area of the vehicle. Put the weapon(s) in the trunk of your vehicle, wrapped up or in a case. The weapon(s) should not be accessible to anyone in the vehicle. You must go directly to and from the range.

Q: Is the License to Carry a Firearm issued in PA good in other states?

A: A complete list is available from attorneygeneral.gov

States that have entered into a written reciprocity agreement with PA are listed below:

Alaska	Kentucky	North Carolina	Utah
Arizona	Michigan	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Arkansas	Mississippi	South Dakota	Wyoming
Florida	Missouri	Texas	Virginia
Ohio	Georgia	New Hampshire	Tennessee

