

Tennessee Department Of Safety is the issuing authority.

Handgun Carry Permit Issuance

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In October of 1996, the Department of Safety began issuing handgun carry permits pursuant to Public Chapter 905. Previous to this change, local sheriff's offices issued handgun carry permits. Since October 1996, the Department of Safety has issued more than 165,000 handgun carry permits.

Steps to obtain a Hand Gun Permit with the State of Tennessee.

1. Complete an eight-hour training course approved by the state.
2. After completion of the training course you may complete the state application. This application can be downloaded from the website or go to the local driver testing station.
3. You will be given the information for you fingerprints when you pay the \$115.00 fee.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The citizens of the State of Tennessee have the right to keep and bear arms for their common defense; but the General Assembly has the power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime. Any resident of Tennessee who has reached twenty-one (21) years of age may apply to the Department of Safety for a handgun permit. If the applicant is not prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm in this state pursuant to T.C.A. Cod 39-17-316 or 39-17-1307(b), 18 U.S.C. 9 (g) or any other state or federal law and the applicant otherwise meets all of the requirements, the department shall issue a permit to the applicant.

- Permit will be valid for four (4) years from date of issue.
- The permit shall entitle the permittee to carry any handgun - which the permittee legally owns or possesses.
- The permittee shall have the permit in their immediate possession at all times when carrying a handgun and shall display the permit on demand of a law enforcement officer.

NOTE: Applicant should consult Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13 of the T.C.A. Codes for information on locations where handguns are prohibited. Even though a person is authorized to possess or carry a firearm pursuant to T.C.A. 39-17-1315 or 39-17-1351 and has a permit, there are some restrictions as to where firearms may be carried. For more information, visit the General Assembly's website at www.legislature.state.tn.us, click on legislation and then Tennessee Code.

PROCESSING

- Applications are received and reviewed in the Handgun Carry Permit Office.
- Proper documentation is forwarded to three (3) different agencies: (TBI, FBI, County Sheriff).
- Upon a name search approval from TBI, the permit can be issued within ninety (90) days from date of application.
- Upon issuance, the handgun carry permit will be mailed to the applicant.
- Incomplete applications cannot be processed.
- **FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**

Fees

- Original Application = \$115.00
- Renewal Application = \$50.00
- Duplicate Application = \$5.00
- Training Course = \$50.00

Effective July 1, 2005, all new handgun permit applicants must provide proof of U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residency unless such applicant has already provided this proof and it is documented on their driver license record.

Permit will be valid for four (4) years & covers any legal handgun(s).

The cost of the permit is \$115.00; payable to the Tennessee Department Of Safety at the time the application is processed. Permit must be in possession of the holder when carrying a handgun and to be displayed on demand of an Officer of the law.

Where to go and what to do.

You must complete a Tennessee Department of Safety Handgun Permit Application.

The application is available at any Tennessee Department of Safety Drivers License Testing Station or on the website at: <http://www.tennessee.gov/safety/handgunmain.htm>

You must complete a Tennessee Department of Safety approved course in firearms safety training, from a certified firearms instructor and school, approved and certified by the Tennessee Department of Safety to teach the Tennessee Department of Safety Handgun Permit Course.

Application must be made within six (6) months of the date of issuance of the Certificate of Training. After the six (6) month time period has passed without the handgun permit application process, the Certificate of Training is null and void. Another Handgun Permit Firearms Safety Training Course shall have to be taken to obtain a new Certificate of Training.

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Handgun Permit Information Links:

<http://www.tennesseefirearms.com/default.asp>

<http://www.packing.org/state/tennessee/>

Warning:

CAUTION! Please understand if you choose to wear your handgun (exposed) on the outside of your clothing **YOU WILL BE STOPPED BY EVERY OFFICER THAT SEES YOU**. The officers are only doing their job, so be sure to have your I.D. ready to show that you are legal. I would recommend that you conceal the weapon to avoid being checked out every time an officer sees you.

Thank You

Sheriff Jeff Bledsoe