

## Carrying Firearms in your Car or RV W/O A Permit/License Last Updated 9/12/13

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Carrying firearms in a vehicle without a permit/license is legal in some states. This is not legal advice and you should check with the proper authorities before transporting firearms in any state. Carrying firearms in vehicles is listed below for each state.

**NOTE:** See Each States Page at [www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us) for information on the Minimum Age that a person can legally transport a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle.

## Federal Law on Interstate Transportation of Firearms

### Code of Federal Regulations

Title 18 - Part I - Chapter 44 - § 926a

### § 926A. Interstate Transportation of Firearms

Release date: 2005-08-03

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

[http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode18/usc\\_sec\\_18\\_00000926---A000-.html](http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode18/usc_sec_18_00000926---A000-.html)

## National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) Carry

National Park Carry will go into effect February 22, 2010. That means if you have a permit/license that is legal in the state the National Park is located in you can carry in that National Park. Until that time carry in National Parks is illegal.

## Title 36 Chpt. 1 Part 2 § 2.4 Weapons Traps and Nets.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Chapter, a person may possess, carry, and transport concealed, loaded, and operable firearms within a national park area in accordance with the laws of the state in which the national park area, or that portion thereof, is located, except as otherwise prohibited by applicable federal law.

## Chapter 50 Chapter 1 Part 27 § 27.42 Firearms.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Chapter, persons may possess, carry, and transport concealed, loaded, and operable firearms within a national wildlife refuge in accordance with the laws of the state in which the wildlife refuge, or that portion thereof, is located, except as otherwise prohibited by applicable federal law.

## National Forests

Some states have laws concerning carrying in National Forest. You must know the law.

In most states if it is legal for you to carry a firearm concealed in the state the National Forest is in you can carry your firearm concealed in a National Forest in that state. If it is legal to carry a firearm openly on your hip in the state the National Forest is in you can legally carry it that way in the National Forest in that state. Some states have laws against carrying in National Forests in their state. Look at each states page to see if it is legal to carry in National Forests in that state.

Do be advised that any **Ranger Station** or **Visitors Center** in any National Forest is considered a **Federal Building**. It is illegal to carry any firearm into such a building either concealed or openly even with a CCW from the state the National Forest Ranger Station or Visitors Center is in.

## Native America Reservations/Lands

Carry on Reservations is up to the Tribe and its Ordinances/laws. They fall outside the state laws on carrying firearms. Even a permit/license issued by the state is not valid on Reservations unless the Tribe OK's it. It is very difficult to find out what their Ordinances/laws are on carrying firearms. Check with the Reservation Police/Government before carrying a firearm onto a Reservation. Also be aware that Reservations are not marked that well and you can be well onto a Reservation before you know it. More Info can be found [“ Here.”](#)

## Alabama

You must have a Permit/License to carry a loaded handgun in any vehicle.

**Alabama Code 13A-11-73(b)** Except as otherwise prohibited by law. A person legally permitted to possess a pistol, but who does not possess a valid concealed weapon permit, may possess an unloaded pistol in his or her motor vehicle if the pistol is locked in a compartment or container that is in or affixed securely to the vehicle and out of reach of the driver and any passenger in the vehicle.

A person

may lawfully transport a firearm, including a handgun, from one state in which they are legal to possess to another state without a permit as required under Alabama law, provided the following conditions are met:

- The firearm is unloaded.
- Neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle.
- In case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment, the firearm and ammunition shall be in a locked container other than the glove box or console.

Title 18 U.S.C. section 926A

## Alaska

## Must Inform Officer

If you are 21 years of age and can legally own a firearm you can carry a loaded firearm openly or concealed in a vehicle in Alaska. You must inform any Law Enforcement Office who stops you for any official business that you are carrying a firearm. The Office can take charge of the firearm till the stop is over or instruct you to secure it somewhere else in the vehicle. Failure to inform any Law enforcement Officer and follow his lawful orders on securing the firearm is in violation of the law.

## Arizona

If you are 21 years of age and can legally purchase/own a firearm you can carry in loaded concealed on your person anywhere it is legal to carry in Arizona without any type of permit/license. That includes automobiles. You can carry anywhere that someone with a permit/license to carry can carry except into places that serve alcohol for consumption on the premises.

## Arkansas

### Arkansas Code Annotated 5-73-120. Carrying a Weapon.

(a) A person commits the offense of carrying a weapon if he or she possesses a handgun, knife, or club on or about his or her person, in a vehicle occupied by him or her, or otherwise readily available for use with a purpose to attempt to unlawfully employ the handgun, knife, or club as a weapon against a person.

(b) As used in this section:

(3) "Journey" means travel beyond the county in which a person lives;

(c) It is permissible to carry a handgun under this section if at the time of the act of carrying a weapon:

(4) The person is carrying a weapon when upon a journey, unless the journey is through a commercial airport when presenting at the security checkpoint in the airport or is in the person's checked baggage and is not a lawfully declared weapon;

**Note:** The law does not state how the handgun must be carried. It does not state what ends a journey. It just states if you are outside your county of residence. AR State Police state when you reach your destination your journey is over.

**Note:** Court Cases concerning "On A Journey in Arkansas." From the Case:

Donald RIGGINS, Appellant, v. STATE of Arkansas, Appellee.

Johnson v. State, 252 Ark. 1113, 482 S.W.2d 600 (1972). A journey has long been defined as

where one travels a distance from home sufficient to carry him beyond the circle of his neighbors and general acquaintances and outside of the routine of his daily business.... "The prohibition was designed to stop the carrying of weapons among one's habitual associates; the exception was designed to permit it when necessary to defend against perils of the highway to which strangers are exposed, and that are not supposed to exist among one's own neighbors."

Ellington v. Denning, 99 Ark. 236, 237, 138 S.W. 453, 453 (1911) (quoting *Hathcote v. State*, 55 Ark. 181, 185, 17 S.W. 721, 722 (1891)). The court in *Hathcote* also stated that, "while we cannot state an unbending rule by which to define the scope of the exception, it should in every case be interpreted in the light of good sense and with regard to the spirit and intent of the statute.

## California

You must have a valid CA Permit/License to carry a loaded handgun in any vehicle.

The transportation or carrying of any pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person by any citizen of the United States over the age of 18 years who resides or is temporarily within this state, and is not within the excepted classes prescribed by Penal Code Sections 29800 or 29900 or Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8100 & 8103, provided that the following applies:

1. the firearm is within a motor vehicle and it is locked in the vehicle's trunk or in a locked container in the vehicle other than the utility or glove compartment,
2. and when the firearm is carried by the person to or from any motor vehicle for any lawful purpose, the firearm must be contained in a locked container while being physically carried. (Penal Code § 16850)

### Traveling with Firearms in California (From the California Attorney General)

#### HANDGUNS

California Penal Code section 25400 does not prevent a citizen of the United States over 18 years of age who is not lawfully prohibited from firearm possession, and who resides or is temporarily in California, from transporting by motor vehicle any pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person provided the firearm is unloaded and stored in a locked container.

The term "locked container" means a secure container which is fully enclosed and locked by a padlock, key lock, combination lock, or similar locking device. This includes the trunk of a motor vehicle, but does not include the utility or glove compartment. For more information, refer to California Penal Code Section 25610.

#### SHOTGUNS AND RIFLES

Nonconcealable firearms (rifles and shotguns) are not generally covered within the provisions of California Penal Code section [25400](#) and therefore are not required to be transported in a locked container. However, as with any firearm, nonconcealable firearms must be unloaded while they are being transported. A rifle or shotgun that is defined as an assault weapon pursuant to Penal Code [30510](#) or [30515](#) must be transported in accordance with Penal Code section [25610](#).

## REGISTERED ASSAULT WEAPONS

California Penal Code section 30945 requires that registered assault weapons may be transported only between specified locations and must be unloaded and in a locked container when transported.

The term "locked container" means a secure container which is fully enclosed and locked by a padlock, key lock, combination lock, or similar locking device. This includes the trunk of a motor vehicle, but does not include the utility or glove compartment. For more information, refer to California Penal Code Section [25610](#).

**26055.** Nothing in Section 25850 shall prevent any person from having a loaded weapon, if it is otherwise lawful, at the person's place of residence, including any temporary residence or campsite.

**Note:** The firearm must be in a "LOCKED & SECURED CONTAINER." That is not the Glove Box or Console. It does not have to be in the trunk. If Unloaded and Secured in a locked container it can be anywhere in the vehicle. A trunk is considered a locked container if there is not a pass through from the rear seat into the trunk. Does a soft sided pistol rug with a padlock through the zipper so that it can not be unzipped without opening the lock a secured container? I don't know. The law just states a Secure Container. Though legal to carry loaded Magazines/Speedloaders in the same container as the firearm I am hearing that some jurisdictions are arresting people for doing just that. Use Caution. CA PC 26055 would allow you to keep a loaded firearm in your Hotel/Motel Room

## Colorado

### 18-12-204. Permit Contents - Validity - Carrying Requirements.

**(3) (a)** a person who may lawfully possess a handgun may carry a handgun under the following circumstances without obtaining a permit and the handgun shall not be considered concealed:

**(I)** the handgun is in the possession of a person who is in a private automobile or in some other private means of conveyance and who carries the handgun for a legal use, including self-defense.

### [33-6-125](#). Possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle

It is unlawful for any person, except a person authorized by law or by the division, to possess or have under his control any firearm, other than a pistol or revolver, in or on any motor vehicle unless the chamber of such firearm is unloaded. Any person in possession or in control of a rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle shall allow any peace officer, as defined in [section 33-1-102 \(32\)](#), who is empowered and acting under the authority granted [in section 33-6-101](#) to enforce articles 1 to 6 of this title to inspect the chamber of any rifle or shotgun in the motor vehicle. For the purposes of this section, a "muzzle-loader" shall be considered unloaded if it is not primed, and, for such purpose, "primed" means having a percussion cap on the nipple or flint in the striker and powder in the flash pan. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of fifty dollars and an assessment of fifteen license suspension points. HISTORY: Source: L. 84: Entire article R&RE, p. 876, § 1, effective January 1, 1985.

## Connecticut

You must have a Permit/License to carry a loaded handgun in any vehicle.

### [Sec. 29-38d](#) Interstate Transportation of Firearms Through State.

(a) The provisions of sections 29-35 and 29-38 shall not apply to the interstate transportation of firearms through this state in accordance with 18 USC 926A and 927, as amended from time to time, by any person who is not otherwise prohibited from shipping, transporting, receiving or possessing a firearm. Such person may transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where such person may lawfully possess and carry such firearm through this state to any other place where such person may lawfully possess and carry such firearm provided such transportation is in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(b) During the transportation of a firearm through this state as authorized in subsection (a) of this section, such firearm shall be unloaded and neither such firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the vehicle. If the vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, such firearm shall be unloaded and such firearm and any ammunition being transported shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

## DC

You can not carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle in the District of Columbia. (See Note at Bottom of Sec)

DC ST § 22-4504.02

District of Columbia Official Code 2001 Edition

Division IV. Criminal Law and Procedure and Prisoners.

Title 22. Criminal Offenses and Penalties. (Refs & Annos)

Subtitle VI. Regulation and Possession of Weapons.

Chapter 45. Weapons and Possession of Weapons. (Refs & Annos)

**§ 22-4504.02. Lawful transportation of firearms.**

(a) Any person who is not otherwise prohibited by the law from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be permitted to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm if the firearm is transported in accordance with this section.

(b)(1) If the transportation of the firearm is by a vehicle, the firearm shall be unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported shall be readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the transporting vehicle.

(2) If the transporting vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the driver's compartment, the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console, and the firearm shall be unloaded.

(c) If the transportation of the firearm is in a manner other than in a vehicle, the firearm shall be:

- (1) Unloaded;
- (2) Inside a locked container; and
- (3) Separate from any ammunition.

**Note:** This is for transporting firearms through DC but if you are traveling and going through DC it is actually out of your way in most instances. I would not travel inside the Beltway around DC. The beltway is outside DC and is actually in the surrounding states but is a good boundary marker to keep from going into the District. If you stop in DC for any reason while transporting firearms you are no longer covered by Federal Law (Title 18 Part 1 Chapter 44 § 926A) but fall under DC law and can be arrested and your firearms Confiscated.

**TITLE 11**

Crimes and Criminal Procedure

Delaware Criminal Code

**CHAPTER 5. SPECIFIC OFFENSES****Subchapter VII.** Offenses Against Public Health, Order and Decency**Subpart A.** Riot, Disorderly Conduct and Related Offenses**§ 1442. Carrying A Concealed Deadly Weapon; Class G Felony; Class E Felony.**

A person is guilty of carrying a concealed deadly weapon when the person carries concealed a deadly weapon upon or about the person without a license to do so as provided by § 1441 of this title.

Carrying a concealed deadly weapon is a class G felony, unless the accused has been convicted within the previous 5 years of the same offense, in which case it is a class E felony. (11 Del. C. 1953, § 1442; 58 Del. Laws, c. 497, § 1; 59 Del. Laws, c. 547, § 13; 67 Del. Laws, c. 130, § 8; 70 Del. Laws, c. 186, § 1.)

**§ 1443. Carrying a Concealed Dangerous Instrument; Class A Misdemeanor.**

(a) A person is guilty of carrying a concealed dangerous instrument when the person carries concealed a dangerous instrument upon or about the person.

(b) It shall be a defense that the defendant was carrying the concealed dangerous instrument for a specific lawful purpose and that the defendant had no intention of causing any physical injury or threatening the same.

(c) For the purposes of this section, disabling chemical spray, as defined in § 222 of this title, shall not be considered to be a dangerous instrument.

(d) Carrying a concealed dangerous instrument is a class A misdemeanor. (11 Del. C. 1953, § 1443; 58 Del. Laws, c. 497, § 1; 59 Del. Laws, c. 547, § 14; 67 Del. Laws, c. 130, § 8; 70 Del. Laws, c. 186, § 1; 71 Del. Laws, c. 374, § 6.)

**Note:** You can't carry a concealed Firearm in a vehicle but if it is on the seat or dash then it is legal. Do not put it under the seat or in the Glove Box/Console. That is concealed. The Dash is best.

**Florida****790.25 Lawful Ownership, Possession, and Use of Firearms and Other Weapons**

(5) **Possession In Private Conveyance.**--Notwithstanding subsection (2), it is lawful and is not a violation of s. 790.01 for a person 18 years of age or older to possess a concealed firearm or other weapon for self-defense or other lawful purpose within the interior of a private conveyance, without a license, if the firearm or other weapon is securely encased or is otherwise not readily accessible for immediate use. Nothing herein contained prohibits the carrying of a legal firearm other than a handgun anywhere in a private conveyance when such firearm is being carried for a lawful use. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the carrying of a concealed firearm or other



weapon on the person. This subsection shall be liberally construed in favor of the lawful use, ownership, and possession of firearms and other weapons, including lawful self-defense as provided in s. 776.012.

**790.001 Definitions.**--As used in this chapter, except where the context otherwise requires:

(17) "Securely encased" means in a glove compartment, whether or not locked; snapped in a holster; in a gun case, whether or not locked; in a zippered gun case; or in a closed box or container which requires a lid or cover to be opened for access.

## Georgia

### § 16-11-126. Possession and Carrying a Concealed Weapon; Penalty for Violating Licensing Requirement

(a) Any person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a handgun or long gun may have or carry on his or her person a weapon or long gun on his or her property or inside his or her home, motor vehicle, or place of business without a valid weapons carry license.

(b) Any person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a handgun or long gun may have or carry on his or her person a long gun without a valid weapons carry license, provided that if the long gun is loaded, it shall only be carried in an open and fully exposed manner.

(c) Any person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a handgun or long gun may have or carry any handgun provided that it is enclosed in a case and unloaded.

(d) Any person who is not prohibited by law from possessing a handgun or long gun who is eligible for a weapons carry license may transport a handgun or long gun in any private passenger motor vehicle; provided, however, that private property owners or persons in legal control of property through a lease, rental agreement, licensing agreement, contract, or any other agreement to control access to such property shall have the right to forbid possession of a weapon or long gun on their property, except as provided in Code Section 16-11-135. No Permit License Is needed to carry the firearm inside your Motor Vehicle either openly or concealed.

**Note:** The GA Court of Appeals ruled in (Hubbard v. State, 210 Ga. App. 141, 143-44 1993) that if you do not have a permit/license honored in GA you can only carry a firearm in “Your Own Vehicle.” This means you can carry in “Your Own Vehicle” without a permit/license but if you are riding in a vehicle that is not yours you must have permission of the person who has legal control of the vehicle

## Hawaii

You can not carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a Permit/License.

**Reference: HRS 134-6**

(c) Except as provided in sections 134-5 and 134-9, all firearms and ammunition shall be confined to the possessor's place of business, residence, or sojourn; provided that it shall be lawful to carry unloaded firearms or ammunition or both in an enclosed container from the place of purchase to the purchaser's place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places upon change of place of business, residence, or sojourn, or between these places and the following: a place of repair; a target range; a licensed dealer's place of business; an organized, scheduled firearms show or exhibit; a place of formal hunter or firearm use training or instruction; or a police station. "Enclosed



container" means a rigidly constructed receptacle, or a commercially manufactured gun case, or the equivalent thereof that completely encloses the firearm.

**Note:** HI has a mandatory registration of all firearms brought into the state. Check the Hawaii Page at [www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us) for more information on registration.

## Idaho

**Must be in plain view**

### 18-3302.

(9) While in any motor vehicle, inside the limits or confines of any city, a person shall not carry a concealed weapon on or about his person without a license to carry a concealed weapon. This shall not apply to any firearm located in plain view whether it is loaded or unloaded. A firearm may be concealed legally in a motor vehicle so long as the weapon is disassembled or unloaded.

## Illinois

As the law states below, "is eligible to carry a firearm in public under the laws of his or her state or territory of residence." This is a new law and no Administrative Rules have been written. The Law as written is not defined. Until the Illinois State Police define what will be acceptable as proof that you can legally carry a firearm in your home state Handgunlaw.us highly recommends you not vehicle carry without a valid permit/license from your state of residence while traveling in your vehicle in Illinois.

### Section 40

(e) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a non-resident from transporting a concealed firearm within his or her vehicle in Illinois, if the concealed firearm remains within his or her vehicle and the non-resident:

- (1) is not prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm under federal law;
- (2) is eligible to carry a firearm in public under the laws of his or her state or territory of residence; and
- (3) is not in possession of a license under this Act. If the non-resident leaves his or her vehicle Unattended, he or she shall store the firearm within a locked vehicle or locked container within the vehicle in accordance with subsection (b) of Section 65 of this Act.

### Subsection (b) of Section 65 States:

(b) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (a-5), and (a-10) of this Section except under paragraph (22) or (23) of subsection (a), any licensee prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm into the parking area of a prohibited location specified in subsection (a), (a-5), or (a-10) of this Section shall be permitted to carry a concealed firearm on or about his or her person within a vehicle into the parking area and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area. A licensee may carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle within a prohibited parking lot area only for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicle's trunk, provided the licensee ensures the concealed firearm is unloaded prior to exiting the vehicle. For purposes of this subsection, "case" includes a glove compartment or console that completely encloses the concealed firearm or ammunition, the trunk of the vehicle, or a firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container.

### Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

"Concealed firearm" means a loaded or unloaded handgun carried on or about a person completely or mostly concealed from view of the public or on or about a person within a vehicle.

**Note:** If you stop you can store the loaded handgun in the vehicle in a closed compartment in a locked vehicle or in a locked case out of view in the vehicle. You can't leave your vehicle with a loaded handgun. You must unload to transfer it to your trunk or to enter your motel room etc. You can store it as specified in the law above.

**Note:** See "Chicago & Cicero Laser Sights" In the Places Off Limits Section on the [Illinois page](#) at [www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us) as Laser Sights are Illegal in Chicago.

**Note:** If you are traveling and don't interrupt your trip for sightseeing or to get a room for the night but only stop for food and fuel you can transport an unloaded stored firearm under federal law 18-926A. As long as you are traveling you fall under federal law. If you stop you then fall under state law.

**Title 18 > Part 1 > Chapter 44 > [§ 926A](#)**  
**§ 926A. Interstate Transportation Of Firearms**

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

**From the IL State Police: Is it illegal to have ammunition in the case with the firearm?**

No, if the firearm is unloaded and is properly enclosed in a case and the individual possessing the firearm and ammunition is in possession of a valid FOID card.

**From the IL State Police: Can I keep a firearm in my hotel room when I travel?**

Yes, assuming no local ordinance applies. The critical question is how the firearm was carried into the room and transported in a vehicle. Those actions must be done lawfully.

## Indiana

You can not carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a Valid Permit/License.

### [IC 35-47-2-1](#)

**Carrying a handgun without a license or by a person convicted of domestic battery; exceptions**

Sec. 1. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) and section 2 of this chapter, a person shall not carry a handgun in any vehicle or on or about the person's body without being licensed under this chapter to carry a handgun.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), a person may carry a handgun without being licensed under this chapter to carry a handgun if: (3) the person carries the handgun in a vehicle that is owned, leased, rented, or otherwise legally controlled by the person, if the handgun is:

- (A) unloaded;
- (B) not readily accessible; and
- (C) secured in a case;

(4) the person carries the handgun while lawfully present in a vehicle that is owned, leased, rented, or otherwise legally controlled by another person, if the handgun is:

- (A) unloaded;

- (B) not readily accessible; and
- (C) secured in a case;

### **§ 926A. Interstate Transportation of Firearms**

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

## **Iowa**

You can not carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a Valid Permit/License to Carry.

### **724.4 Carrying Weapons.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who goes armed with a dangerous weapon concealed on or about the person, or who, within the limits of any city, goes armed with a pistol or revolver, or any loaded firearm of any kind, whether concealed or not, or who knowingly carries or transports in a vehicle a pistol or revolver, commits an aggravated misdemeanor.

f. A person who for any lawful purpose carries or transports an unloaded pistol or revolver in a vehicle inside a closed and fastened container or securely wrapped package which is too large to be concealed on the person or inside a cargo or luggage compartment where the pistol or revolver will not be readily accessible to any person riding in the vehicle or common carrier.

**Note:** When a motor home is used as a residence (Parked) or place of business (Parked), no permit is required. When it is being used as transportation the firearm must be stored.

## **Kansas**

**Must be Visible**

From the Kansas Attorney General [FAQ on Firearms.](#)

### **Q. How Can I Legally Transport a Firearm in My Vehicle Anywhere in Kansas?**

**Answer:** K.S.A. 2005 Supp 12-16,124(d) provides that “no person shall be prosecuted under any ordinance, resolution or regulation for transporting a firearm in any air, land or water vehicle if the firearm is unloaded and encased in a container which completely encloses the firearm.” Again, concealed carry licensees are not subject to local ordinances or resolutions regarding the manner of transporting a loaded firearm.

### **K.S.A. 12-16,124 Firearms and Ammunition; Regulation by City or County, Limitations.**

(a) No city or county shall adopt any ordinance, resolution or regulation, and no agent of any city or county shall take any administrative action, governing the purchase, transfer, ownership, storage or transporting of firearms or ammunition, or any component or combination thereof. Except as provided in subsection (b) and subsection (a) of

K.S.A. 2009 Supp. 75-7c11, and amendments thereto, any such ordinance, resolution or regulation adopted prior to the effective date of this 2007 act shall be null and void.

(4) prohibit a city or county from adopting an ordinance, resolution or regulation requiring a firearm transported in any air, land or water vehicle to be unloaded and encased in a container which completely encloses the firearm or any less restrictive provision governing the transporting of firearms, provided such ordinance, resolution or regulation shall not apply to persons licensed under the personal and family protection act.

**Note:** You can open carry in a vehicle without a permit/license but local governments can pass ordinances on the way you carry. Some have ordinances that state you have to have a security holster. That would be the minimum of a thumb break.

## Kentucky

### 527.020 Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon.

(8) A loaded or unloaded firearm or other deadly weapon shall not be deemed concealed on or about the person if it is located in any enclosed container, compartment, or storage space [regularly] installed as original equipment in a motor vehicle by its manufacturer, including but not limited to a glove compartment, center console, or seat pocket, regardless of whether said enclosed container, storage space, or compartment is locked, unlocked, or does not have a locking mechanism. No person or organization, public or private, shall prohibit a person from keeping a loaded or unloaded firearm or ammunition, or both, or other deadly weapon in a vehicle in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Any attempt by a person or organization, public or private, to violate the provisions of this subsection may be the subject of an action for appropriate relief or for damages in a Circuit Court or District Court of competent jurisdiction. This subsection shall not apply to any person prohibited from possessing a firearm pursuant to KRS 527.040.

## Louisiana

**Must inform Officer**

### RS 14:95.6

#### §95.6. Firearm-Free Zone; Notice; Signs; Crime; Penalties

**A.** A "firearm-free zone" is an area inclusive of any school campus and within one thousand feet of any such school campus, and within a school bus.

#### **B. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to:**

- (1) A federal, state, or local law enforcement building.
- (2) A military base.
- (3) A commercial establishment which is permitted by law to have firearms or armed security.
- (4) Private premises where a firearm is kept pursuant to law.
- (5) Any constitutionally protected activity within the firearm-free zone, such as a firearm contained entirely within a motor vehicle.

The below question and answer is from the Louisiana Concealed Handgun Permit Unit FAQ page.  
<http://www.lsp.org/pdf/chFAQ.pdf>

## CAN I CARRY MY HANDGUN IN MY VEHICLE?

Louisiana law does not expressly prohibit the carrying of handguns in vehicles. This is a complicated issue. We suggest that you refer to Louisiana Revised Statutes (L.R.S.) [Title 14 Sections 95](#); 95.1; 95.2; 95.6; 95.7; 95.8. Information on these statutes can be obtained at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/> or in the “Laws and Rules” section of our web page.

**Note:** The law talks about on school property and that carry in a motor vehicle is a constitutionally protected activity. If it is on a restricted place then it must be state wide. LA does have state wide preemption so cities, towns etc can not make laws against carry in a vehicle.

### Maine

You can not a carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a Valid Permit/License to Carry.

Maine has no law about transporting an unload firearm in a vehicle. The law states you can't carry it concealed or loaded. So it can be carried unload and not concealed. What is concealed? Different states have ruled differently on what is concealed or not. Use caution. I would carry it in some type of container that encloses the firearm but not in the Glove Box or Console

### Maryland

It is illegal to carry any loaded firearm in any vehicle in Maryland without a valid permit/license to carry.

#### From the Maryland State Police FAQs.

**Q. Can I legally transport my regulated firearm to the range?** (From the MD State Police)

**A.** Yes, however, Maryland and Federal laws require specific conditions be met while transporting a handgun. Please refer to Maryland Annotated Code, Criminal Law, Title 4, Section 203 for a detailed account of wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun. You may access the Maryland General Assembly website at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmlst.aspx?tab=home> You can access the Federal requirements through [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov) and conduct a search for “27 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 178” and then look for “Transportation of Firearms.” The basic requirement during transport is the handgun must be unloaded and in an enclosed case or enclosed holster with the ammunition separate from the handgun AND you must be transporting the handgun to or from the locations listed in the statute. Go to the following website for Criminal Law Title 4-203 regarding wearing, carrying or transporting a handgun:  
[http://mlis.state.md.us/asp/statutes\\_Respond.asp?article=gcr&section=4-203&Extension=HTML](http://mlis.state.md.us/asp/statutes_Respond.asp?article=gcr&section=4-203&Extension=HTML)

**Q. Can I legally transport my regulated firearm to the range?** (From the MD State Police)

**A.** Yes, provided the regulated firearm is unloaded, in an enclosed case or enclosed holster with no ammunition accessible.

For MD laws go to the following website and click on Criminal Law then Title 4-203 regarding wearing, carrying or transporting a handgun. [Maryland Code](#)

#### Federal Law on Transporting Firearms:

[§ 926A](#). Interstate Transportation of Firearms

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

**Note:** If you travel through MD with the firearm unloaded and secured you are covered under Federal law. If you stop or interrupt your trip you then come under state law.

## Massachusetts

You can not carry a loaded firearm of any type inside any vehicle in Massachusetts without a class A permit issued by the state of Massachusetts.

### Definition of Large Capacity Weapon

A weapon is large capacity if it is a semi-automatic handgun or rifle that is capable of accepting (or readily modifiable to accept) any detachable large capacity feeding device that holds more than ten rounds, OR if it is a shotgun capable of accepting more than five shotgun shells, OR if it is an assault weapon.

NOTE: A .22 caliber rifle with a fixed tubular magazine is not considered large capacity.

### Transporting Guns in Motor Vehicles

CLASS "A" LTC: Allows the holder to transport a loaded or unloaded handgun on his person or in a motor vehicle if the handgun is under their direct control. Handgun does not have to be in a locked case or container.

CLASS "B" LTC: Allows the holder to transport a non-large capacity handgun. Handgun must be unloaded and secured in a locked trunk or locked container.

LARGE-CAPACITY RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS: No person possessing a large-capacity rifle or shotgun under a Class "A" or Class "B" permit shall possess said rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle unless unloaded and contained within a locked trunk or in a locked case or other secure container.

NOTE: All rifles and shotguns must be unloaded when in or on a motor vehicle, but only large-capacity rifles and shotguns are subject to the storage requirement. This also applies to Muzzleloading or other Black Powder arms.

**Q: Can I leave my gun in my car if I need to go into the store on my way home from the range or from hunting?**

**A:** If your handgun or large capacity rifle or shotgun is transported in accordance with the provisions of [M.G.L. c. 140, §131C](#) (i.e. unloaded and in a locked case, locked trunk or other secure container) then the gun may be left unattended in the vehicle. Weapons transported in this manner will automatically be considered "stored or kept" in compliance with the safe storage requirements of [§131L](#).

A person leaving a non-large capacity rifle or shotgun in an unattended vehicle is required to lock the rifle or shotgun in a case/container or in the trunk, or install a mechanical locking device on the weapon (i.e. cable or trigger lock).

**Note:** Use extreme Caution when entering Massachusetts unless you have a MA Permit to Carry. The laws are very difficult to understand and certain firearms are not allowed in the state. Follow the links above and read the laws of MA on firearms.

## Michigan

You can not a carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a Valid Permit/License to Carry.

### **750.227d Transporting or Possessing Firearm in or Upon Motor Vehicle or Self-Propelled Vehicle Designed for Land Travel; Conditions; Violation as Misdemeanor; Penalty.**

#### **Sec. 227d.**

(1) Except as otherwise permitted by law, a person shall not transport or possess in or upon a motor vehicle or any self-propelled vehicle designed for land travel a firearm, other than a pistol, unless the firearm is unloaded and is 1 or more of the following:

- (a) Taken down.
- (b) Enclosed in a case.
- (c) Carried in the trunk of the vehicle.
- (d) Inaccessible from the interior of the vehicle.

(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$100.00, or both.

### **750.231a Exceptions to MCL 750.227(2); Definitions.**

(d) To a person while transporting a pistol for a lawful purpose that is licensed by the owner or occupant of the motor vehicle in compliance with section 2 of 1927 PA 372, MCL 28.422, and the pistol is unloaded in a closed case designed for the storage of firearms in the trunk of the vehicle.

(e) To a person while transporting a pistol for a lawful purpose that is licensed by the owner or occupant of the motor vehicle in compliance with section 2 of 1927 PA 372, MCL 28.422, and the pistol is unloaded in a closed case designed for the storage of firearms in a vehicle that does not have a trunk and is not readily accessible to the occupants of the vehicle.

## Minnesota

You can not carry any loaded firearm in any vehicle without a Valid Permit/License.



## **624.714 Carrying of Weapons Without Permit; Penalties.**

### **Subd. 9 A Permit to Carry is Not Required of a Person:**

(5) to transport a pistol in a motor vehicle, snowmobile or boat if the pistol is unloaded, contained in a closed and fastened case, gunbox, or securely tied package.

**Note:** MN Game Laws [97B.045](#) say it has to be the above and snapped, Zippered Etc if required and no part of the firearm is visible.

## **Mississippi**

### **SEC. 97-37-1. Deadly Weapons; Carrying While Concealed; Use or Attempt to Use; Penalties.**

(2) It shall not be a violation of this section for any person over the age of eighteen (18) years to carry a firearm or deadly weapon concealed in whole or in part within the confines of his own home or his place of business, or any real property associated with his home or business or within any motor vehicle.

## **Missouri**

**Below is the law but it means if you are 21 years of age or older and can legally possess a firearm you can carry it loaded and concealed anywhere in the vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry.**

**From the Missouri State Patrol [FAQs](#)**

**Question** Does a person carrying a weapon in a vehicle also have to have a permit for the gun?

**Answer:** No. A weapon may be carried anywhere in a vehicle, even concealed on the person, under the vehicle exception.

### **571.030. 1. A Person Commits the Crime of Unlawful Use of Weapons if He or She Knowingly:**

(1) Carries concealed upon or about his or her person a knife, a firearm, a blackjack or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use

(3). Subdivisions (1), (5), (8), and (10) of subsection 1 of this section do not apply when the actor is transporting such weapons in a nonfunctioning state or in an unloaded state when ammunition is not readily accessible or when such weapons are not readily accessible. Subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section does not apply to any person twenty-one years of age or older transporting a concealable firearm in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle, so long as such concealable firearm is otherwise lawfully possessed, nor when the actor is also in possession of an exposed firearm or projectile weapon for the lawful pursuit of game, or is in his or her dwelling unit or upon [business] premises over which the actor has possession, authority or control, or is traveling in a continuous journey peaceably through this state.

Montana Attorney Web Site states the following:

“Montana has no prohibitions against carrying a weapon in a motor vehicle, although federal rules may apply in national parks.”

According to the AG you can carry a firearm inside your vehicle without a permit The Definition of concealed in Montana is "wholly or partially covered by clothing or wearing apparel".

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Montana law is quiet on carrying a firearm in a vehicle. There is no mention of it being illegal to carry a loaded or unloaded firearm in a vehicle. What Montana Law does say is this:

**45-8-315. Definition.** "Concealed weapon" means any weapon mentioned in 45-8-316 through 45-8-318 and 45-8-321 through 45-8-328 that is wholly or partially covered by the clothing or wearing apparel of the person carrying or bearing the weapon, except that for purposes of 45-8-321 through 45-8-328, concealed weapon means a handgun or a knife with a blade 4 or more inches in length that is wholly or partially covered by the clothing or wearing apparel of the person carrying or bearing the weapon.

**45-8-316. Carrying Concealed Weapons.** (1) A person who carries or bears concealed upon the individual's person a dirk, dagger, pistol, revolver, slingshot, sword cane, billy, knuckles made of any metal or hard substance, knife having a blade 4 inches long or longer, razor, not including a safety razor, or other deadly weapon shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding 6 months, or both.

**45-8-317. Exceptions.** (1) Section 45-8-316 does not apply to:

- (i) a person who is outside the official boundaries of a city or town or the confines of a logging, lumbering, mining, or railroad camp or who is lawfully engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, backpacking, farming, ranching, or other outdoor activity in which weapons are often carried for recreation or protection; or
- (j) the carrying of arms on one's own premises or at one's home or place of business.

So you can carry concealed outside Cities, Towns, Logging, Lumbering, Mining and Railroad Camps without any type of permit. In or out of your car. But since Montana law defines concealed as cover or partially covered by clothing you can carry a loaded handgun in the Glove Box or Console in the Cities, Towns etc in Montana without any type of permit/license.

The law has to state what is illegal. If it doesn't mention it then it is legal.

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This is from Gary Marbut, President Montana Shooting Sports Association <http://www.mtssa.org> author, Gun Laws of Montana

There is some misinformation on the Montana DOJ Website you link to for Montana at:

<http://doj.mt.gov/enforcement/criminaljustice/concealedweapons.asp>

In its first paragraph, DOJ states the case to make Montana law sound much more restrictive than it really is. In Montana, nobody needs a permit to carry concealed outside the limits of a city or town, which is 99.4% of Montana. Inside city limits, a permit is required to legally carry concealed, but a permit is not required in one's home or place of business. And, Montana recognizes permits from most (40) other states.

Further, the definition of "concealed" in Montana is not a dictionary definition, such as "hidden." Rather, the definition is specific to Montana CCW law and is "wholly or partially covered by clothing or wearing apparel." Thus, in a vehicle glove box or under the seat is not considered "concealed" for the purposes of the Montana CCW law, nor is inside a briefcase, backpack, or even in a woman's purse (no reliable definition for a fannypack, but I'd argue that it's the same as a woman's purse - an accessory or luggage, not "clothing or wearing apparel").

So, a person may have a firearm in the glove box of a car, even inside city limits in Montana, without a permit.

## Nebraska

## Must be in Plain View

Nebraska Law is silent on loaded firearms in vehicles. You do have to have a permit/license valid in NE to carry a concealed firearm in or outside a vehicle. It is illegal to carry a loaded Shotgun in a vehicle under NE Game Laws. You can carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle without a permit/license if the firearm is in plain view.

**Note:** Do be advised that the City of Omaha has laws against carrying a firearm in a vehicle without a valid Permit/License to Carry in Nebraska. NE Preemption only covers concealed firearms. Omaha can have such a law. This is the only major city I know of that has laws against carry in a vehicle without a valid permit/license. Other cities could pass such laws.

### [37-522](#). Shotgun on Highway; Restrictions; Violation; Penalty.

It shall be unlawful to have or carry, except as permitted by law, any shotgun having shells in either the chamber, receiver, or magazine in or on any vehicle on any highway. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor and shall be fined at least fifty dollars.

Nebraska Preemption does give NE Cities the right to regulate the carrying of concealed weapons without a valid permit/license.

### [17-556](#) Public Safety; Firearms; Explosives; Riots; Regulation.

Second-class cities and villages shall have power to prevent and restrain riots, routs, noises, disturbances or disorderly assemblages; to regulate, prevent, restrain or remove nuisances in residential parts of municipalities and to designate what shall be considered a nuisance; to regulate, punish, and prevent the discharge of firearms, rockets, powder, fireworks or any other dangerous combustible material in the streets, lots, grounds, alleys or about or in the vicinity of any buildings; to regulate, prevent and punish the carrying of concealed weapons; except the carrying of a concealed handgun in compliance with the Concealed Handgun Permit Act, and to arrest, regulate, punish, fine or set at work on the streets, or elsewhere, all vagrants and persons found without means of support or some legitimate business.

Carrying Concealed weapons is an offence and the law reads:

### [28-1202](#). Carrying Concealed Weapon; Penalty; Affirmative Defense.

(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person who carries a weapon or weapons concealed on or about his or her person, such as a handgun, a knife, brass or iron knuckles, or any other deadly weapon, commits the offense of carrying a concealed weapon.

(b) It is an affirmative defense that the defendant was engaged in any lawful business, calling, or employment at the time he or she was carrying any weapon or weapons and the circumstances in which such person was placed at the

time were such as to justify a prudent person in carrying the weapon or weapons for the defense of his or her person, property, or family.

(2) This section does not apply to a person who is the holder of a valid permit issued under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act if the concealed weapon the defendant is carrying is a handgun.

(3) Carrying a concealed weapon is a Class I misdemeanor.

(4) In the case of a second or subsequent conviction under this section, carrying a concealed weapon is a Class IV felony.

There is one law that mentions a firearm found inside a vehicle.

#### **28-1212. Presence of Firearm in Motor Vehicle; Prima Facie Evidence.**

The presence in a motor vehicle other than a public vehicle of any firearm or instrument referred to in section [28-1203](#), [28-1206](#), [28-1207](#), or [28-1212.03](#) shall be prima facie evidence that it is in the possession of and is carried by all persons occupying such motor vehicle at the time such firearm or instrument is found, except that this section shall not be applicable if such firearm or instrument is found upon the person of one of the occupants therein.

The thing is Sections 1203, 1206, 1207 & 1212.03 define firearms that are Machine Guns, Stolen, Defaced or in possession of a felon. So if the occupants of the vehicle can legally possess a firearm and the firearm is legal it doesn't fall under this law.

Under NE Concealed Permit Act they have the following Definitions and Other Laws still apply law.

#### **[69-2429](#). Terms, Defined.**

For purposes of the Concealed Handgun Permit Act:

(1) Concealed handgun means the handgun is totally hidden from view. If any part of the handgun is capable of being seen, it is not a concealed handgun;

(3) Handgun means any firearm with a barrel less than sixteen inches in length or any firearm designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand;

#### **[69-2445](#). Carrying Concealed Weapon Under Other Law; Act; How Construed.**

Nothing in the Concealed Handgun Permit Act prevents a person from carrying a concealed weapon as permitted under section [28-1202](#).

If you look back you will see that 28-1202 is an affirmative defense for carrying a concealed firearm. Go back and read 28-1202 (b)

The state only has laws concerning concealed firearms in vehicles.

## Nevada

Nevada law is silent on carrying firearms in vehicles. They do have a law against carrying loaded long guns in vehicles. But no law against handguns.

### **[NRS 503.165](#) Carrying Loaded Rifle or Shotgun in or on Vehicle on or Along Public Way Unlawful; Exceptions.**

1. It is unlawful to carry a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun in or on any vehicle which is standing on or along, or is being driven on or along, any public highway or any other way open to the public.
2. A rifle or shotgun is loaded, for the purposes of this section, when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell in the firing chamber, but not when the only cartridges or shells are in the magazine.

Nevada did amend their law to override local ordinances and that they must go by state law.

Nevada law was amended in 2007 and from what I can find out no city in Nevada can now regulate the carrying of firearms in the city. They must go by state law.

### **Sec. 2. NRS 268.418 is Hereby Amended to Read as Follows:**

1. Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, the Legislature reserves for itself such rights and powers as are necessary to regulate the transfer, sale, purchase, possession, ownership, transportation, registration and licensing of firearms and ammunition in Nevada, and no city may infringe upon those rights and powers. As used in this subsection, “firearm” means any weapon from which a projectile is discharged by means of an explosive, spring, gas, air or other force.
2. The governing body of a city may proscribe by ordinance or regulation the unsafe discharge of firearms.

**Note:** North Las Vegas is said to be enforcing an Ordinance that bans the carrying of firearms unless you have a permit/license to carry. This Ordinance is most likely over ruled by state preemption but that will not keep you from being arrested and charged and give your day in court. Their Ordinance reads:

### **[9.32.080](#) - Deadly Weapon Prohibited in Vehicle—Exceptions.**

It is unlawful for any person to have in his possession in any automobile, truck, motorcycle, or any other type of vehicle any dangerous or deadly weapon, but this restriction shall not be deemed to prohibit the carrying of ordinary tools or equipment carried in good faith for uses of honest work, trade or business, or for the purpose of legitimate sport or recreation.

## New Hampshire

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle in New Hampshire without a Valid Permit/License.

### **From the FAQ Page of NH State Police**

I would like to bring my handgun into New Hampshire, yet I don’t have a license to carry concealed. How may I carry?

- You may carry unloaded in your vehicle. Be sure that the ammunition is separate from the gun.
- You may carry loaded on your person. The weapon needs to be fully exposed. For example, it may not be concealed by a shirt or a jacket, or located in a backpack.
- You may carry unloaded and concealed on your person, so long as you do not possess any ammunition on your person.
- Please refer to [RSA 159](#) for additional information.

**159:4 Carrying Without License.** – No person shall carry a loaded pistol or revolver in any vehicle or concealed upon his person, except in his dwelling, house or place of business, without a valid license therefor as hereinafter provided. A loaded pistol or revolver shall include any pistol or revolver with a magazine, cylinder, chamber or clip in which there are loaded cartridges. Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall, for the first such offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor. For the second and for each subsequent violation of the provisions of this section, such person shall be guilty of a class B felony, provided such second or subsequent violation has occurred within 7 years of the previous conviction.

**Note:** You can open carry outside a vehicle but you can not open carry in a vehicle. You can not carry a loaded firearm anywhere in a vehicle. See this NH Supreme Ct Ruling on [What is a Loaded Firearm](#).

## New Jersey

It is illegal to have any loaded firearm inside any vehicle in New Jersey without a valid Permit/License. (See Places off Limits about ammo specifications also.)

### Here is what the NRA says about New Jersey.

New Jersey has highly restrictive firearms laws. The New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled that anyone traveling within the state is deemed to be aware of these regulations and will be held strictly accountable for violations. (End NRA Statement)

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New Jersey Law also states that before possessing or transporting any rifle or shotgun without first having obtained a New Jersey firearms purchaser identification card (FPIC), or possessing or transporting any handgun without first having obtained a New Jersey handgun carry permit is a violation of their law.

You can transport it from place of purchase to home. Home to a Certified Shooting Range. Going hunting but must have a valid hunting license. You just can't have it in your vehicle. Again the law says you must have a FPIC or NJ Carry Permit to even transport firearms in NJ. From all I read and have heard someone from outside NJ must have a very good reason to transport a firearm into NJ and better have the proper paperwork.

### So Called Assault Weapons in New Jersey

- More than 50 specified firearms or their copies (§ 2C:39-1w(1), (2));
- A semi-automatic shotgun with either a magazine capacity exceeding six rounds, a pistol grip, or a folding stock (§ 2C:39-1w(3));
- A semi-automatic rifle with a fixed magazine capacity exceeding 15 rounds (§ 2C:39-1w(4)); and

- A part or combination of parts designed or intended to convert a firearm into an assault firearm, or any combination of parts from which an assault firearm may be readily assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of the same person (§ 2C:39-1w(5)).

## **From the New Jersey State Police**

### **All Firearms Transported Through the State of New Jersey:**

The following guidelines are provided in order to assist law enforcement officers in applying New Jersey's firearms laws to persons who are transporting firearms **through** the State of New Jersey.

- I. New Jersey laws governing firearms permits, purchaser identification cards, registration and licenses do not apply to a person who is transporting the firearm through this State if that person is transporting the firearm in a manner permitted by federal law, [18 U.S.C.A. 926A](#).
- II. This federal law permitting interstate transportation of a firearm applies only if all of the following requirements are met:
  - A. The person's possession of the firearm was lawful in the state in which the journey began;
  - B. The person's possession of the firearm will be lawful in the state in which the journey will end;
  - C. The person is transporting the firearm for lawful purpose
  - D. The firearm is unloaded
  - E. The firearm is not directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the vehicle
  - F. The ammunition is not directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the vehicle
  - G. If the vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the firearm and ammunition must be in a locked container other than the vehicle's glove compartment or console;
  - H. The person is not
    1. a convicted felon
    2. a fugitive from justice an addict or unlawful user of drugs, or
    3. an illegal alien
  - I. The person has not
    1. been adjudicated to be a mental defective
    2. been committed to a mental institution
    3. been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces, or
    4. renounced his United States Citizenship
- III. A person who is transporting a firearm though the State of New Jersey in the manner permitted by person's possession 18 **U.S.C.A.** 926A, see Section II above, need not give notice.
- IV. Procedures for Investigation of Conduct Involving the Possession or Transportation of Firearms
  - A. An officer who reasonably suspects that a person is transporting a firearm in violation of New Jersey law should make reasonable inquiries in order to confirm or dispel that suspicion.
  - B. In a case where circumstances reasonably indicate that the person's possession and transportation of the firearms my be permitted by 18 **U.S.C.A.** 926A, the officer should make reasonable inquiries in order to determine whether the person's possession is permitted by that federal law.
  - C. If reasonable inquiries lead an officer to conclude that the person's possession is lawful under either New Jersey



law or 18 U.S.C.A. 926A, as described above in Section II, the officer should promptly allow the person to proceed.

- D.** Whenever an officer has probable cause to believe that a person's possession of a firearm is in violation of New Jersey law and not permitted by 18 U.S.C.A. 926A, as described above in Section II, then the officer should make an arrest.

**Note:** What they fail to mention is that this must pertain to residents because to own a firearm they have the paperwork and by the State Supreme Court ruling they must know the law. Use extreme caution before entering NJ with any firearm.

## New Mexico

New Mexico Statute [30-7-2.2](#) states you must be at least 19 years of age to possess a handgun.

### From the Department of Public Safety FAQ.

**Question:** Do I have to be licensed to have a concealed loaded handgun inside my vehicle?

**Answer:** No. New Mexico law allows a person who is not otherwise prohibited to have a concealed loaded firearm in his/her vehicle (including motorcycles and bicycles). See [30-7-2 NMSA 1978](#). If you are not licensed to carry concealed in this State or in a state that NM recognizes, you may not have the weapon concealed on your person when you exit your vehicle or motorcycle.

### [30-7-1](#). "Carrying a Deadly Weapon".

"Carrying a deadly weapon" means being armed with a deadly weapon by having it on the person, or in close proximity thereto, so that the weapon is readily accessible for use.

### [30-7-2](#). Unlawful Carrying of A Deadly Weapon.

A. Unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon consists of carrying a concealed loaded firearm or any other type of deadly weapon anywhere, except in the following cases:

- (1) in the person's residence or on real property belonging to him as owner, lessee, tenant or licensee;
- (2) in a private automobile or other private means of conveyance, for lawful protection of the person's or another's person or property;

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the carrying of any unloaded firearm.

### [29-19-10](#). Validity of License On Tribal Land.

A concealed handgun license shall not be valid on tribal land, unless authorized by the governing body of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo.

## New York

It is illegal to carry any loaded firearm in any motor vehicle without a valid New York Permit/License to Carry. It is legal to transport a legal firearm through New York but if you interrupt your trip you are breaking the law. What is an

interruption to your trip could be for the jury to decide. (See transporting firearms thru NY above) NY also has restrictions on the type of firearms you can possess in NY and Magazines that hold more than 10 rounds or can be converted to hold more than 10 rounds are illegal. Use extreme caution when transporting a firearm through NY.

It is unlawful for any person to carry, possess or transport a handgun in or through the state unless he has a valid New York license. (A provision of federal law provides a defense to state or local laws which would prohibit the passage of persons with firearms in interstate travel if the person is traveling from any place where he may lawfully possess and transport a firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and transport such firearm and the firearm is unloaded and in the trunk. In vehicles without a trunk, the unloaded firearm shall be in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console).

## **New York City**

### **NYC has even more restrictive gun laws than NY State.**

It is illegal to carry any loaded firearm in any motor vehicle without a valid New York Permit/License to Carry. It is legal to transport a legal firearm through New York but if you interrupt your trip you are breaking the law. What is an interruption to your trip could be for the jury to decide. NY also has restrictions on the type of firearms you can possess in NY and Magazines that hold more than 10 rounds or can be converted to hold more than 10 rounds are illegal. Use extreme caution when transporting a firearm through NY.

It is illegal to carry any loaded firearm in any motor vehicle without a valid New York Permit/License to Carry. It is legal to transport a legal firearm through New York but if you interrupt your trip you are breaking the law. What is an interruption to your trip could be for the jury to decide. (See transporting firearms thru NY above) NY also has restrictions on the type of firearms you can possess in NY and Magazines that hold more than 10 rounds or can be converted to hold more than 10 rounds are illegal. Use extreme caution when transporting a firearm through NY.

It is unlawful for any person to carry, possess or transport a handgun in or through the state unless he has a valid New York license. (A provision of federal law provides a defense to state or local laws which would prohibit the passage of persons with firearms in interstate travel if the person is traveling from any place where he may lawfully possess and transport a firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and transport such firearm and the firearm is unloaded and in the trunk. In vehicles without a trunk, the unloaded firearm shall be in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console).

## **North Carolina**

## **Must Inform Officer**

### **Transporting Weapons**

Roy Cooper  
Attorney General

Given this general prohibition of carrying concealed weapons, individuals must be ever vigilant to ensure that their particular situation cannot be construed as concealing a weapon either on or about them without being properly authorized to do so with a valid North Carolina concealed handgun permit. Therefore, the person's accessibility to the weapon is of prime importance. It is for these reasons, that when transporting a weapon in a vehicle, even greater care must be exercised to ensure that the weapon is not concealed and within the ready access to an occupant of the vehicle. North Carolina law does not specifically address how to transport a weapon in an automobile. Therefore, the central question becomes: when is the weapon concealed and readily accessible to an occupant of the automobile? Obviously, a weapon would be concealed and readily accessible, and therefore in violation of our law, if it were placed in such areas of a vehicle as, under the seat of the automobile; in a bag in the back seat; in an unlocked glove

compartment; or in some other manner is covered or hidden within the easy reach of an occupant of the vehicle. A previous opinion from this office was that a weapon would not be concealed if it were placed in a locked glove compartment, unless the key to the glove compartment was in the lock and the person was in close proximity and had ready access to it. A concern with this mode of transportation however is that it is quite susceptible to different interpretations, based on the various factors involved. Therefore, this may not be the most legally defensible method of transporting a weapon, and is discouraged.

While a weapon carried openly in an automobile would not be concealed, there are other problems attendant to this method of carrying a weapon. The principal drawback, of course, is in the event of a person being stopped by a law enforcement official, the officer may not readily know that person's purpose and intent for carrying a weapon. As such, it is imperative that a person immediately notify an officer of the presence of any weapon in the automobile, for the officer's and the vehicle's occupants' safety. Another obvious drawback is that a valuable weapon may be in plain view for potential thieves to see. The prohibition to carrying concealed weapons applies not only to handguns and other weapons commonly thought of as being easily hidden, but also to "long guns" as well. Therefore, shotguns and rifles concealed behind the seat of pickup trucks, and elsewhere in other vehicles, could similarly violate our law.

As to those vehicles with no easily discernible trunk area, for example vans, the question turns on a factual determination of when the weapon is within ready and easy access to an occupant of the vehicle. If the weapon is concealed near, in close proximity to, or within the convenient control and access of an occupant, which would allow him to use the weapon quickly, then a fair probability exists that the occupant is in violation of the law. Therefore, care must be exercised by any occupant of a vehicle to ensure that the weapons are securely locked away in as remote an area as possible in relation to the passenger compartment of the vehicle. It is important to emphasize that these prohibitions apply to passengers, as well as the driver of a vehicle.

From: [NC Firearm Laws by NC AG](#)

**Note:** In NC you can carry the firearm loaded and in your vehicle without any type of permit/license as long as it is visible. The law says you can't conceal it. So keep it in the open and you are legal.

## North Dakota

It is illegal to carry a loaded gun in any vehicle in North Dakota without a Permit/License.

**62.1-01-01. General Definitions.** As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

**9.** "Plain view" means the handgun is placed in such a location or carried in such a position as to be easily discernible by the ordinary observation of a passerby. In a motor vehicle, this includes being placed on the seat, dashboard, or in a gunrack as long as the handgun is not covered or is in any other way concealed from view.

**11.** "Secured" means the firearm is closed into the trunk or nonpassenger part of the vehicle; placed into a closed and secure carrying device; rendered inoperative by the use of a trigger, hammer, cylinder, slide, or barrel-locking device that renders the firearm incapable of firing until the device is unlocked and removed; or so disassembled or disabled as to be rendered incapable of firing.

**62.1-02-10. Carrying Loaded Firearm in Vehicle - Penalty - Exceptions.**

No person may keep or carry a loaded firearm in or on any motor vehicle in this state. Any person violating this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. This prohibition does not apply to:

1. Any person possessing a valid North Dakota concealed weapons license or a valid license issued by another state authorizing the person to carry a dangerous weapon concealed if that state permits a holder of a valid

North Dakota concealed weapons license to carry a dangerous weapon concealed in that state without obtaining a similar license from that state, except while that person is in the field engaged in hunting or trapping activities.

**Note:** ND is an open carry state but you have to have a permit to open carry.

## Ohio

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License.

### **2923.16 Improperly Handling Firearms in A Motor Vehicle.**

(A) No person shall knowingly discharge a firearm while in or on a motor vehicle.

(B) No person shall knowingly transport or have a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle in such a manner that the firearm is accessible to the operator or any passenger without leaving the vehicle.

(C) No person shall knowingly transport or have a firearm in a motor vehicle, unless the person may lawfully possess that firearm under applicable law of this state or the United States, the firearm is unloaded, and the firearm is carried in one of the following ways:

(1) In a closed package, box, or case;

(2) In a compartment that can be reached only by leaving the vehicle;

(3) In plain sight and secured in a rack or holder made for the purpose;

(4) If the firearm is at least twenty-four inches in overall length as measured from the muzzle to the part of the stock furthest from the muzzle and if the barrel is at least eighteen inches in length, either in plain sight with the action open or the weapon stripped, or, if the firearm is of a type on which the action will not stay open or which cannot easily be stripped, in plain sight.

(D) No person shall knowingly transport or have a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle if, at the time of that transportation or possession, any of the following applies:

(1) The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them.

(2) The person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine contains a concentration of alcohol, a listed controlled substance, or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance prohibited for persons operating a vehicle, as specified in division (A) of section 4511.19 of the Revised Code, regardless of whether the person at the time of the transportation or possession as described in this division is the operator of or a passenger in the motor vehicle.

(E) No person who has been issued a license or temporary emergency license to carry a concealed handgun under section 2923.125 or 2923.1213 of the Revised Code or a license to carry a concealed handgun that was issued to the person by another state with which the attorney general has entered into a reciprocity agreement under section 109.69 of the Revised Code, who is the driver or an occupant of a motor vehicle that is stopped as a result of a traffic stop or a stop for another law enforcement purpose or is the driver or an occupant of a commercial motor vehicle that is stopped by an employee of the motor carrier enforcement unit for the purposes defined in section 5503.34 of the

Revised Code, who is transporting or has a loaded handgun in the motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle in any manner, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Fail to promptly inform any law enforcement officer who approaches the vehicle while stopped that the person has been issued a license or temporary emergency license to carry a concealed handgun and that the person then possesses or has a loaded handgun in the motor vehicle;
- (2) Fail to promptly inform the employee of the unit who approaches the vehicle while stopped that the person has been issued a license or temporary emergency license to carry a concealed handgun and that the person then possesses or has a loaded handgun in the commercial motor vehicle-
- (3) Knowingly fail to remain in the motor vehicle while stopped or knowingly fail to keep the person's hands in plain sight at any time after any law enforcement officer begins approaching the person while stopped and before the law enforcement officer leaves, unless the failure is pursuant to and in accordance with directions given by a law enforcement officer;
- (4) Knowingly have contact with the loaded handgun by touching it with the person's hands or fingers in the motor vehicle at any time after the law enforcement officer begins approaching and before the law enforcement officer leaves, unless the person removes, attempts to remove, grasps, holds, or has contact with the loaded handgun pursuant to and in accordance with directions given by the law enforcement officer;
- (5) Knowingly disregard or fail to comply with any lawful order of any law enforcement officer given while the motor vehicle is stopped, including, but not limited to, a specific order to the person to keep the person's hands in plain sight.

## Oklahoma

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License.

### [§21-1289.7.](#) Firearms in Vehicles.

#### **FIREARMS IN VEHICLES**

Any person, except a convicted felon, may transport in a motor vehicle a rifle, shotgun or pistol, open and unloaded, at any time. For purposes of this section "open" means the firearm is transported in plain view, in a case designed for carrying firearms, which case is wholly or partially visible, in a gun rack mounted in the vehicle, in an exterior locked compartment or a trunk of a vehicle.

Any person, except a convicted felon, may transport in a motor vehicle a rifle or shotgun concealed behind a seat of the vehicle or within the interior of the vehicle provided the rifle or shotgun is not clip, magazine or chamber loaded. The authority to transport a clip or magazine loaded rifle or shotgun shall be pursuant to Section 1289.13 of this title.

§21-1289.13. Transporting a loaded firearm.

#### **TRANSPORTING A LOADED FIREARM**

Except as otherwise provided by the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act or another provision of law, it shall be unlawful to transport a loaded pistol, rifle or shotgun in a land borne motor vehicle over a public highway or roadway. However, a rifle or shotgun may be transported clip or magazine loaded and not chamber loaded when transported in an exterior locked compartment of the vehicle or trunk of the vehicle or in the interior compartment of the vehicle notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1289.7 of this title when the person is in possession of a valid handgun license pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act.

## From the Oregon Firearms Federation:

OREGON has no STATE law against carrying a loaded handgun in your car as long as it is :

- (a) Not concealed or
- (b) “Not readily accessible.”

“Not readily accessible” (for now) means:

- (4)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a handgun is readily accessible within the meaning of this section if the handgun is within the passenger compartment of the vehicle.
- (b) If a vehicle has no storage location that is outside the passenger compartment of the vehicle, a handgun is not readily accessible within the meaning of this section if:
  - (A) The handgun is stored in a closed and locked glove compartment, center console or other container; and
  - (B) The key is not inserted into the lock, if the glove compartment, center console or other container unlocks with a key.

However, localities are allowed to regulate loaded firearms in “public places” which now includes your car. This only applies to people without CHL’s.

So you need to check local regulations. In Portland, for example, you may not have a loaded gun anywhere in your car and you may not even have loaded magazines separate from the handgun. It must still, however, be either visible or “not readily accessible.”

## State Law.

### 166.250 Unlawful Possession of Firearms.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or ORS 166.260, 166.270, 166.274, 166.291, 166.292 or 166.410 to 166.470, a person commits the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm if the person knowingly:

- (a) Carries any firearm concealed upon the person;
- (b) Possesses a handgun that is concealed and readily accessible to the person within any vehicle; or
- (c) Possesses a firearm and:
  - (A) Is under 18 years of age;
  - (B)(i) While a minor, was found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for having committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a felony or a misdemeanor involving violence, as defined in ORS 166.470; and
    - (ii) Was discharged from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court within four years prior to being charged under this section;
  - (C) Has been convicted of a felony or found guilty, except for insanity under ORS 161.295, of a felony;
  - (D) Was committed to the Department of Human Services under ORS 426.130; or
  - (E) Was found to be mentally ill and subject to an order under ORS 426.130 that the person be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm as a result of that mental illness.

- (2) This section does not prohibit:
  - (a) A minor, who is not otherwise prohibited under subsection (1)(c) of this section, from possessing a firearm:
    - (A) Other than a handgun, if the firearm was transferred to the minor by the minor's parent or guardian or by another person with the consent of the minor's parent or guardian; or
    - (B) Temporarily for hunting, target practice or any other lawful purpose; or
    - (b) Any citizen of the United States over the age of 18 years who resides in or is temporarily sojourning within



this state, and who is not within the excepted classes prescribed by ORS 166.270 and subsection (1) of this section, from owning, possessing or keeping within the person's place of residence or place of business any handgun, and no permit or license to purchase, own, possess or keep any such firearm at the person's place of residence or place of business is required of any such citizen. **As used in this subsection, "residence" includes a recreational vessel or recreational vehicle while used, for whatever period of time, as residential quarters.**

**(3)** Firearms carried openly in belt holsters are not concealed within the meaning of this section.

**(4)** Unlawful possession of a firearm is a Class A misdemeanor.

[Amended by 1979 c.779 §4; 1985 c.543 §3; 1989 c.839 §13; 1993 c.732 §1; 1993 c.735 §12; 1999 c.1040 §1; 2001 c.666 §§33,45; 2003 c.614 §8]

**Note:** Law states as a residence. That could mean parked and not in motion. Once it is in motion they may consider it a vehicle and not a residence.

## Pennsylvania

### From the PA State Police FAQs.

#### Are there exceptions to carrying a firearm without a Pennsylvania License to Carry?

A License to Carry Firearms is issued to carry a firearm concealed on one's person or in a vehicle within this Commonwealth. Any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person except in his place of abode or fixed place of business without a valid and lawfully issued license commits a felony of the third degree.

A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

#### [18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6106](#) Firearms not to be Carried Without a License

**(1)** Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license under this chapter commits a felony of the third degree.

**(2)** A person who is otherwise eligible to possess a valid license under this chapter but carries a firearm in any vehicle or any person who carries a firearm concealed on or about his person, except in his place of abode or fixed place of business, without a valid and lawfully issued license and has not committed any other criminal violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

**(b) Exceptions.--**The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to:

**(11)** Any person while carrying a firearm in any vehicle, which person possesses a valid and lawfully issued license for that firearm which has been issued under the laws of the United States or any other state.

**(15)** Any person who possesses a valid and lawfully issued license or permit to carry a firearm which has been issued under the laws of another state, regardless of whether a reciprocity agreement exists between the Commonwealth and the state under section 6109(k), provided:

**(i)** The state provides a reciprocal privilege for individuals licensed to carry firearms under section 6109.

**(ii)** The Attorney General has determined that the firearm laws of the state are similar to the firearm laws of this Commonwealth.



**Note:** There is debate about having to unload when you exit the vehicle to go into a motel room or other place you have rented or a family member or a friends personal property to spend the night.

**§ 926A. Interstate Transportation of Firearms**

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

**Rhode Island**

**TITLE 11**

**Criminal Offenses**

**CHAPTER 11-47 Weapons**

**SECTION 11-47-8**

**§ 11-47-8 License or Permit Required for Carrying Pistol – Possession of Machine Gun.**

- (a) No person shall, without a license or permit issued as provided in §§ 11-47-11, 11-47-12 and 11-47-18, carry a pistol or revolver in any vehicle or conveyance or on or about his or her person whether visible or concealed, except in his or her dwelling house or place of business or on land possessed by him or her or as provided in §§ 11-47-9 and 11-47-10. The provisions of these sections shall not apply to any person who is the holder of a valid license or permit issued by the licensing authority of another state, or territory of the United States, or political subdivision of the state or territory, allowing him or her to carry a pistol or revolver in any vehicle or conveyance or on or about his or her person whether visible or concealed, provided the person is merely transporting the firearm through the state in a vehicle or other conveyance without any intent on the part of the person to detain him or herself or remain within the state of Rhode Island. No person shall manufacture, sell, purchase, or possess a machine gun except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Every person violating the provision of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten (10) years, or by a fine up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or both, and except for a first conviction under this section shall not be afforded the provisions of suspension or deferment of sentence, nor a probation.

**South Carolina**

**Must inform Officer**

Anyone who can legally own a firearm can carry in loaded if contained in a closed Glove Box, Console or Trunk. Their law is very specific on the only locations where it can be carried.

**SECTION 16-23-10. Definitions. When used in this article:**

- (1) “Handgun” means any firearm designed to expel a projectile and designed to be fired from the hand, but shall not include any firearm generally recognized or classified as an antique, curiosity, or collector’s item, or any that does not fire fixed cartridges.

(10) “Luggage compartment” means the trunk of a motor vehicle which has a trunk; however, with respect to a motor vehicle which does not have a trunk, the term “luggage compartment” refers to the area of the motor vehicle in which the manufacturer designed that luggage be carried or to the area of the motor vehicle in which luggage is customarily carried. In a station wagon, van, hatchback vehicle, or sport utility vehicle, the term “luggage compartment” refers to the area behind, but not under, the rearmost seat. In a truck, the term “luggage compartment” refers to the area behind the rearmost seat, but not under the front seat.

### **SECTION 16-23-20. Unlawful Carrying of Handgun; Exceptions.**

It is unlawful for anyone to carry about the person any handgun, whether concealed or not, except as follows, unless otherwise specifically prohibited by law:

- (1) regular, salaried law enforcement officers, and reserve police officers of a state agency, municipality, or county of the State, uncompensated Governor’s constables, law enforcement officers of the federal government or other states when they are carrying out official duties while in this State, deputy enforcement officers of the Natural Resources Enforcement Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and retired commissioned law enforcement officers employed as private detectives or private investigators;
- (2) members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard, organized reserves, or the State Militia when on duty;
- (3) members, or their invited guests, of organizations authorized by law to purchase or receive firearms from the United States or this State or regularly enrolled members, or their invited guests, of clubs organized for the purpose of target shooting or collecting modern and antique firearms while these members, or their invited guests, are at or going to or from their places of target practice or their shows and exhibits;
- (4) licensed hunters or fishermen who are engaged in hunting or fishing or going to or from their places of hunting or fishing while in a vehicle or on foot;
- (5) a person regularly engaged in the business of manufacturing, repairing, repossessing, or dealing in firearms, or the agent or representative of this person, while possessing, using, or carrying a handgun in the usual or ordinary course of the business;
- (6) guards authorized by law to possess handguns and engaged in protection of property of the United States or any agency of the United States;
- (7) members of authorized military or civil organizations while parading or when going to and from the places of meeting of their respective organizations;
- (8) a person in his home or upon his real property or a person who has the permission of the owner or the person in legal possession or the person in legal control of the home or real property;
- (9) a person in a vehicle if the handgun is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle; however, this item is not violated if the glove compartment, console, or trunk is opened in the presence of a law enforcement officer for the sole purpose of retrieving a driver’s license, registration, or proof of insurance;
- (10) a person carrying a handgun unloaded and in a secure wrapper from the place of purchase to his home or fixed place of business or while in the process of changing or moving one’s residence or changing or moving one’s fixed place of business;
- (11) a prison guard while engaged in his official duties;

(12) a person who is granted a permit under provision of law by the State Law Enforcement Division to carry a handgun about his person, under conditions set forth in the permit, and while transferring the handgun between the permittee's person and a location specified in item (9);

(13) the owner or the person in legal possession or the person in legal control of a fixed place of business, while at the fixed place of business, and the employee of a fixed place of business, other than a business subject to Section 16-23-465, while at the place of business; however, the employee may exercise this privilege only after: (a) acquiring a permit pursuant to item (12), and (b) obtaining the permission of the owner or person in legal control or legal possession of the premises;

(14) a person engaged in firearms related activities while on the premises of a fixed place of business which conducts, as a regular course of its business, activities related to sale, repair, pawn, firearms training, or use of firearms, unless the premises is posted with a sign limiting possession of firearms to holders of permits issued pursuant to item (12);

(15) a person while transferring a handgun directly from or to a vehicle and a location specified in this section where one may legally possess the handgun.

(16) Any person on a motorcycle when the pistol is secured in a closed saddlebag or other similar closed accessory container attached, whether permanently or temporarily, to the motorcycle.

## South Dakota

Must be in plain view

### [§ 22-14-9](#) Carrying Pistol or Revolver Without a Permit as Misdemeanor.

Any person, other than a law enforcement officer when acting as such, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if he:

(2) Carries a pistol or revolver, loaded or unloaded, concealed in any vehicle operated by him, without a permit as provided in chapter § 23-7.

[§ 22-14-10](#). Lawful uses of unloaded pistols or revolvers--Concealment--Exempt from permit requirement. The provisions of § 22-14-9 do not apply to any person carrying any unloaded pistol or revolver for the purpose of, or in connection with, any lawful use, if the unloaded pistol or revolver is carried:

(1) In the trunk or other closed compartment of a vehicle; or

(2) In a closed container which is too large to be effectively concealed on the person or within the person's clothing. The container may be carried in a vehicle or in any other manner. No person who complies with this section may be required to obtain a permit for the lawful uses described in this section. **Source:** SDC 1939, § 21.0106; SDCL, § 23-7-6; SL 1976, ch 158, § 14-6; SL 1977, ch 189, § 30; SL 1985, ch 190, § 21; SL 2005, ch 120, § 250.

**Note:** The Attorney General gave an Unofficial Opinion on Car Carry on September 17, 2004. The Attorney General Stated that South Dakota Law allowed anyone to carry a loaded Firearm inside a vehicle without a permit as long as the firearm was visible. You can read the Attorney Generals Opinion [Here](#).

## Tennessee

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License.

### [39-17-1307](#). Unlawful Carrying or Possession of a Weapon. —

(a) (1) A person commits an offense who carries with the intent to go armed a firearm, a knife with a blade length exceeding four inches (4"), or a club.

(2) (A) The first violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor, and, in addition to possible imprisonment as provided by law, may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(B) A second or subsequent violation of subdivision (a)(1) is a Class B misdemeanor.

### **39-17-1308. Defenses to Unlawful Possession or Carrying of a Weapon. —**

(a) It is a defense to the application of [§ 39-17-1307](#) if the possession or carrying was:

(1) Of an unloaded rifle, shotgun or handgun not concealed on or about the person and the ammunition for the weapon was not in the immediate vicinity of the person or weapon;

**Texas**

**Must be Concealed**

### **From the Texas DPS FAQ Page:**

#### **Q. Can I carry a handgun without a license when driving or traveling in a Motor Vehicle?**

A. Effective September 1, 2007 a person who can legally possess a firearm may possess or carry a handgun in motor vehicle (including a recreational vehicle with living quarters) and watercraft that is owned by or under the lawful control of the person. However, the firearm must be concealed, the person may not be engaged in criminal activity, and also may not be a member of "Criminal Street Gang." The person may also carry the firearm to and from his vehicle without a license. (See Texas Penal Code 46.02 (a). However, DPS recommends that you seek the advice of an attorney with any questions regarding the unlicensed carrying of firearms.

**Note:** The law as written is below.

#### **Title 10 . Section 1**

#### **Section 46.02**

(a) A person commits an offense if the person [he] intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries on or about his or her person a handgun, illegal knife, or club if the person is not:

- (1) on the person's own premises or premises under the person's control; or
- (2) inside of or directly en route to a motor vehicle or watercraft that is owned by the person or under the person's control.

(a-1) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries on or about his or her person a handgun in a motor vehicle or watercraft that is owned by the person or under the person's control at any time in which:

- (1) the handgun is in plain view; or
- (2) the person is:
  - (A) engaged in criminal activity, other than a Class C misdemeanor that is a violation of a law or ordinance regulating traffic or boating;
  - (B) prohibited by law from possessing a firearm; or
  - (C) a member of a criminal street gang, as defined by Section 71.01

(a-2) For purposes of this section, "premises" includes real property and a recreational vehicle that is being

used as living quarters, regardless of whether that use is temporary or permanent. In this subsection, "recreational vehicle" means a motor vehicle primarily designed as temporary living quarters or a vehicle that contains temporary living quarters and is designed to be towed by a motor vehicle. The term includes a travel trailer, camping trailer, truck camper, motor home, and horse trailer with living quarters.

- (a-3) For purposes of this section, "watercraft" means any boat, motorboat, vessel, or personal watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used for transportation on water.

## **SECTION 2.**

(b) Section 46.02 does not apply to a person who:

- (1) is in the actual discharge of official duties as a member of the armed forces or state military forces as defined by Section 431.001, Government Code, or as a guard employed by a penal institution;
- (2) is on the person's own premises or premises under the person's control unless the person is an employee or agent of the owner of the premises and the person's primary responsibility is to act in the capacity of a security guard to protect persons or property, in which event the person must comply with Subdivision (5);
- (3) is traveling;
- (4) [is engaging in lawful hunting, fishing, or other sporting activity on the immediate premises where the activity is conducted, or is en route between the premises and the actor's residence, motor vehicle, or watercraft if the weapon is a type commonly used in the activity;
- (5) holds a security officer commission issued by the Texas [Board of Private Investigators and] Private Security Board [Agencies], if:
  - (A) the person is engaged in the performance of the person's duties as a security officer or traveling to and from the person's place of assignment;
  - (B) the person is wearing a distinctive uniform; and
  - (C) the weapon is in plain view;
- (6) is carrying a concealed handgun and a valid license issued under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code [Article 4413(29ee), Revised Statutes], to carry a concealed handgun of the same category as the handgun the person is carrying;
- (7) holds a security officer commission and a personal protection officer authorization issued by the Texas [Board of Private Investigators and] Private Security Board [Agencies] and [who] is providing personal protection under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code [the Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies Act (Article 4413(29bb), Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes)]; or
- (8) holds an alcoholic beverage permit or license or is an employee of a holder of an alcoholic beverage permit or license if the person is supervising the operation of the permitted or licensed premises.

**SECTION 3.** The following provisions are repealed:

- (1) Section 46.15(h), Penal Code; and
- (2) Section 46.15(i), Penal Code, as added by Chapter 288, Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005.

**SECTION 4.** The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that date.

**SECTION 5.** This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

## Utah

### Utah Code

#### Title 76 Utah Criminal Code

#### Chapter 10 Offenses Against Public Health, Safety, Welfare, and Morals

#### **Section 505** Carrying loaded firearm in vehicle or on street.

##### **76-10-505. Carrying Loaded Firearm in Vehicle or on Street.**

(1) Unless otherwise authorized by law, a person may not carry a loaded firearm:

(a) in or on a vehicle, unless:

(i) the vehicle is in the person's lawful possession; or

(ii) the person is carrying the loaded firearm in a vehicle with the consent of the person lawfully in possession of the vehicle;

(b) on a public street; or

(c) in a posted prohibited area.

(2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a minor under 18 years of age, since a minor under 18 years of age may not carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle.

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(a)(i) and (ii), a person may not possess a loaded rifle, shotgun, or muzzle-loading rifle in a vehicle.

(4) A violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.

**Note:** This new law now allows any person of legal age to possess a handgun, whether loaded or unloaded, or an unloaded long gun, in or on a vehicle if the:

- vehicle is in the lawful possession of the person carrying the gun; or
- vehicle's lawful possessor consents to the gun possession.

## Vermont

Anyone who can legally own a firearm can carry a defensive handgun concealed in Vermont with no permit/license of any kind. This also includes vehicles. Long guns must be unloaded.

## Virginia

### § 18.2-308 Personal Protection; Carrying Concealed Weapons; When Lawful to Carry.

1. Any person who may lawfully possess a firearm and is carrying a handgun while in a personal, private motor vehicle or vessel and such handgun is in a container or compartment in the vehicle or vessel.

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License.

### **RCW 9.41.050 Carrying Firearms.**

**(1)(a)** Except in the person's place of abode or fixed place of business, a person shall not carry a pistol concealed on his or her person without a license to carry a concealed pistol.

**(b)** Every licensee shall have his or her concealed pistol license in his or her immediate possession at all times that he or she is required by this section to have a concealed pistol license and shall display the same upon demand to any police officer or to any other person when and if required by law to do so. Any violation of this subsection (1)(b) shall be a class 1 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW and shall be punished accordingly pursuant to chapter 7.80 RCW and the infraction rules for courts of limited jurisdiction.

**(2)(a)** A person shall not carry or place a loaded pistol in any vehicle unless the person has a license to carry a concealed pistol and: (i) The pistol is on the licensee's person, (ii) the licensee is within the vehicle at all times that the pistol is there, or (iii) the licensee is away from the vehicle and the pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle.

**(b)** A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

**(3)(a)** A person at least eighteen years of age who is in possession of an unloaded pistol shall not leave the unloaded pistol in a vehicle unless the unloaded pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle.

**(b)** A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

**(4)** Nothing in this section permits the possession of firearms illegal to possess under state or federal law.

[2003 c 53 § 28; 1997 c 200 § 1; 1996 c 295 § 4; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 405; 1982 1st ex.s. c 47 § 3; 1961 c 124 § 4; 1935 c 172 § 5; RRS § 2516-5.]

### **RCW 9.41.060 Exceptions to Restrictions on Carrying Firearms.**

The provisions of RCW 9.41.050 shall not apply to:

**(4)** Any person engaged in the business of manufacturing, repairing, or dealing in firearms, or the agent or representative of the person, if possessing, using, or carrying a pistol in the usual or ordinary course of the business;

**(6)** Regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of target shooting, when those members are at or are going to or from their places of target practice;

**(7)** Regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of modern and antique firearm collecting, when those members are at or are going to or from their collector's gun shows and exhibits;

**(8)** Any person engaging in a lawful outdoor recreational activity such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, or horseback riding, only if, considering all of the attendant circumstances, including but not limited to whether the person has a valid hunting or fishing license, it is reasonable to conclude that the person is participating in lawful outdoor activities or is traveling to or from a legitimate outdoor recreation area;

**(9)** Any person while carrying a pistol unloaded and in a closed opaque case or secure wrapper



### From the West Virginia State Police FAQ Page:

**Q.** Is it lawful to carry weapons (e.g. rifles, shotguns, and pistols) in my vehicle when I travel in West Virginia?

**A.** Individuals who possess a valid concealed carry permit may carry a concealed handgun in a motor vehicle for purpose of self-defense only. West Virginia permits anyone who can lawfully possess a handgun to carry an unconcealed handgun. If you choose to carry an unconcealed handgun in your vehicle and are stopped by a law-enforcement officer, you must understand that the weapon will immediately attract the attention of the police officer. The presence of the weapon may lead to action by the officer to ensure his or her safety such as the drawing of his or her weapon, ordering you from the vehicle, and/or performing a pat-down search. Weapons intended for hunting must be unloaded and in a case when transported in a vehicle. It is strongly recommended that, if you do not have a valid concealed carry permit, while traveling in a vehicle, that all firearms be unloaded and cased in a location in the vehicle that is not readily accessible to any of the occupants. Any ammunition should be stored in a separate location from the firearm.

## Wisconsin

### 167.31

(2) Prohibitions; motorboats and vehicles; highways and roadways.

(a) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may place, possess, or transport a firearm, bow, or crossbow in or on a motorboat with the motor running, unless one of the following applies:

1. The firearm is unloaded or is a handgun.
2. The bow does not have an arrow nocked.
3. The crossbow is not cocked or is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case.

(b) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may place, possess, or transport a firearm, bow, or crossbow in or on a vehicle, unless one of the following applies:

1. The firearm is unloaded or is a handgun.
2. The bow does not have an arrow nocked.
3. The crossbow is not cocked or is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case.

(b) Except as provided in sub. (4), no person may load a firearm, other than a handgun, in a vehicle or discharge a firearm or shoot a bolt or an arrow from a bow or crossbow in or from a vehicle.

### 948.605

(2) (a) Any individual who knowingly possesses a firearm at a place that the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, is a school zone in or on the grounds of a school is guilty of a Class I felony. Any individual who knowingly possesses a firearm at a place that the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, is within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a school is subject to a Class B forfeiture.

(2) (b) (intro.) Paragraph (a) does not apply to the possession of a firearm by any of the following:

(2) (b) 1m. A person who possesses the firearm in accordance with 18 USC 922 (q) (2) (B) (i), (iv), (v), (vi), or (vii).

**Note:** You can carry an unconcealed handgun in a vehicle in Wisconsin but if you come within 1000 foot of a school like described above you can be charged. You can transport within 1000 foot of a school without a permit/license to carry under Federal Code 18 USC 922 if the handgun is unloaded and secured. See State vs Walls in AG Opinions/Ct Case Section on what is considered concealed.

## Wyoming

Anyone who can legally own a firearm can carry it anywhere inside a vehicle loaded or unloaded as long as it is not concealed on your person. Wyoming law states that you can not carry a concealed firearm without a permit. There is no Wyoming law about carrying inside your vehicle.

Wyoming Residents only who can legally own a firearm can carry it concealed on their person in a vehicle without any type of permit/license. Wyoming Residents who can legally own a firearm can carry it concealed on their person anywhere that someone who has been issued a permit/license to carry in Wyoming can carry. This is the new Permitless Carry Law passed recently but this law only applies to residents of Wyoming.

## Amer. Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands.

It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm in any vehicle without a valid Permit/License. Just getting a firearm into any of these places is very difficult.

## Updates to this Page

9/9/11 – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.  
9/16/11 – Wyoming Section updated with info for Wyoming Residents only.  
9/23/11 – Indiana Entry Updated with link to new law passed earlier this year.  
9/30/11 – Ohio entry updated with new law.  
11/1/11 – New Mexico entry Updated. Removed Extended Domain. That wording is not in their law. WV entry on WV Residents can Open Carry In Vehicles.  
11/3/11 – Court Case Link added to WI entry.  
12/1/11 – AR Entry updated with Court Case Info about definition of “being on a journey.”  
12/7/11 – Note added to DC entry.  
12/30/11 – TX Entry updated with Watercraft added. HB 25 added this in 2011.  
2/15/12 – Note Added to WV Listing.  
3/9/12 – Broken Links Repaired all Links Checked.  
4/13/12 – Note added to IL about IL Supreme Ct Ruling on a valid permit/license to carry will substitute for a FOID Card.  
5/11/12 – Maryland entry updated with updated FAQ from the MD State Police.  
5/18/12 – DC Entry Updated.  
8/17/12 – All Links Checked and Updated if Needed.  
10/26/12 – California Entry Updated. Note added at top of listing to see each states page at [www.handgunlaw.us](http://www.handgunlaw.us) for info on the Minimum age for possessing and transporting a firearm in a vehicle.  
11/16/12 – Formatting added for easier Navigation. Missouri Entry updated with FAQ from MO Highway Patrol.  
12/14/12 – Illinois Entry: Game Law Was Changed to Match Transporting Firearms to Same as Criminal Code. Reference to that Law Was Removed From the RV/Car Carry Section.  
1/25/13 – Wisconsin Entry Updated with Expanded version of First law quote. CA Entry Updated with CA PC 26055  
3/28/13 – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.  
4/5/13 – Colorado Entry Updated with Long Gun Info.  
7/1/13 – Statute § 22-14-10 Added to South Dakota Entry.  
7/8/13 – Kansas Entry Updated.  
7/11/13 – Illinois Entry Updated.  
8/1/13 – Alabama Entry Updated.  
8/9/13 – New Hampshire entry updated with NH Supreme Ct. ruling on what is a loaded firearm.  
8/16/13 – Arkansas Entry Updated. Illinois entry updated.  
9/7/13 – All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.  
9/12/13 – Illinois Entry updated with Chicago & Cicero info on Laser Sights.