

Selected Firearms Laws from the Connecticut General Statutes

CGS §29-35. Carrying of pistol or revolver without permit prohibited.

Exceptions. (a) No person shall carry any pistol or revolver upon his or her person, except when such person is within the dwelling house or place of business of such person, without a permit to carry the same issued as provided in section 29-28. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the carrying of any pistol or revolver by any parole officer or peace officer of this state, or parole officer or peace officer of any other state while engaged in the pursuit of official duties, or federal marshal or federal law enforcement agent, or to any member of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 27-103, or of this state, as defined in section 27-2, when on duty or going to or from duty, or to any member of any military organization when on parade or when going to or from any place of assembly, or to the transportation of pistols or revolvers as merchandise, or to any person transporting any pistol or revolver while contained in the package in which it was originally wrapped at the time of sale and while transporting the same from the place of sale to the purchaser's residence or place of business, or to any person removing such person's household goods or effects from one place to another, or to any person while transporting any such pistol or revolver from such person's place of residence or business to a place or individual where or by whom such pistol or revolver is to be repaired or while returning to such person's place of residence or business after the same has been repaired, or to any person transporting a pistol or revolver in or through the state for the purpose of taking part in competitions, taking part in formal pistol or revolver training, repairing such pistol or revolver or attending any meeting or exhibition of an organized collectors' group if such person is a bona fide resident of the United States and is permitted to possess and carry a pistol or revolver in the state or subdivision of the United States in which such person resides, or to any person transporting a pistol or revolver to and from a testing range at the request of the issuing authority, or to any person transporting an antique pistol or revolver, as defined in section 29-33. For the purposes of this subsection, "formal pistol or revolver training" means pistol or revolver training at a locally approved or permitted firing range or training facility, and "transporting a pistol or revolver" means transporting a pistol or revolver that is unloaded and, if such pistol or revolver is being transported in a motor vehicle, is not readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the vehicle or, if such pistol or revolver is being transported in a motor vehicle that does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, such pistol or revolver shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the carrying of a pistol or revolver during formal pistol or revolver training or repair.

(b) The holder of a permit issued pursuant to section 29-28 shall carry such permit upon one's person while carrying such pistol or revolver.

CGS §53a-217b. Possession of a weapon on school grounds: Class D felony. (a) A person is guilty of possession of a weapon on school grounds when, knowing that such person is not licensed or privileged to do so, such person possesses a firearm or deadly weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, (1) in or on the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school, or (2) at a school-sponsored activity as defined in subsection (h) of section 10-233a.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to the otherwise lawful possession of a firearm (1) by a person for use in a program approved by school officials in or on such school property or at such school-sponsored activity, (2) by a person in accordance with an agreement entered into between school officials and such person or such person's employer, (3) by a peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of

section 53a-3, while engaged in the performance of such peace officer's official duties, or (4) by a person while traversing such school property for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to hunting or for other lawful purposes, provided such firearm is not loaded and the entry on such school property is permitted by the local or regional board of education.

(c) Possession of a weapon on school grounds is a class D felony.

CGS §29-28. Permit for sale at retail of pistol or revolver. Permit to carry pistol or revolver.

...
(e) The issuance of any permit to carry a pistol or revolver does not thereby authorize the possession or carrying of a pistol or revolver in any premises where the possession or carrying of a pistol or revolver is otherwise prohibited by law or is prohibited by the person who owns or exercises control over such premises.

Useful Links

Connecticut Citizens Defense League

www.ccdl.us

Connecticut General Statutes

www.cga.ct.gov/2010/pub/titles.htm

Connecticut Ordinances by Town

www.jud.ct.gov/LawLib/ordinances.htm

Connecticut Coalition of Sportsmen

www.ctsportsmen.com

Connecticut Gun Rights

www.ctgunrights.com

Connecticut Shooters and Sportsmen

www.ctsas.info

Gun Owners of America

www.gunowners.com

National Rifle Association

www.nra.org

Open Carry.org

www.opencarry.org

Connecticut Gun Talk

www.ctguntalk.com

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IS THAT LEGAL?

A guide to understanding your
CT gun rights.



Brought to you by

Connecticut Citizens Defense League

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Groton, CT 06340

www.ccdl.us

Connecticut Constitution

Article I; Section 15

Right to Bear Arms

“Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.”

www.cslib.org/constitution/amends/constitution.htm

DISCLAIMER: The intent of this pamphlet is not to render legal advice. It is merely to inform the reader as to the existence of certain statutes and rules regarding firearms. The contents of this pamphlet should not be a substitute for legal advice from a competent firearms lawyer of your own choosing. Before relying upon its contents, the reader is fully advised and cautioned to seek out such independent advice.

Facts about carrying concealed

In Connecticut it is unlawful to carry a handgun upon your person outside of your dwelling or place of business without a permit to carry. There are some very limited exceptions. Ref: CGS §29-35

The penalty for carrying a handgun without being issued a valid permit to carry is a 1-5 year prison sentence and a fine of not more than \$1000. Ref: CGS §29-37

Failure to have your valid permit to carry on your person while carrying a handgun is a \$35 fine.

Ref: CGS §29-37

You do not need to be a resident of CT to carry.

The cities of New Britain and New London prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons, including handguns, and make no exemptions for anyone with a permit to carry.

Ref: NB City Ord. 16-80, NL City Or. 14-11

Issuance of Permits

Residents apply for a permit to carry from the local chief of police, warden, or selectman. Once a resident has been deemed suitable the town issues a 60-day temporary permit. The applicant must bring the temporary permit to the Department of Public Safety to get their State permit to carry. *Non-residents* apply directly to the CT Department of Public Safety.

All applications require fingerprints, proper fees, a truthfully completed and notarized application, proof of firearms safety course, and proof of lawful residency. *Non-*

residents must also submit a copy of a permit or license to carry issued to them in any other US jurisdiction and a passport-sized photo. Ref: Form DPS-799-C

Facts about openly carrying

Yes, open carry is legal in Connecticut

In Connecticut, anyone possessing a valid “Permit to Carry Pistols or Revolvers” is authorized to carry a handgun upon their person anywhere not prohibited by the administrator of the property upon which the person is located or specifically prohibited by statute.

A memo sent out April 10th, 2010 by the Department of Public Safety regarding the 2nd Amendment March on Hartford explained that State Police personnel should not arrest a properly permitted individual merely for publicly carrying a handgun in plain view and that they should not be required to show their pistol permits unless under investigation for another reason.

It is always up to the responding officer to determine if a crime has been committed and therefore up to his discretion whether or not to arrest. Become very familiar with the law if you intend to carry in any manner.

Breach of Peace (misdemeanor): Carrying a holstered firearm, whether openly or concealed, does not meet the statutory requirements to constitute fighting, assaults, threatening to commit a crime, sexually offensive remarks/gestures, or hazardous or physically offensive conditions. Ref: CGS §53a-181

Public disturbance (infraction): Carrying a holstered firearm, whether openly or concealed, does not meet the statutory requirements to constitute fighting, threatening of imminent physical violence, offensive conduct or unreasonable noise. Ref: CGS §53a-181a

Disorderly Conduct (misdemeanor): Carrying a holstered firearm, whether openly or concealed, does not meet the statutory requirements to constitute fighting, assaults, threatening behavior, offensive conduct, unreasonable noise, disturbing lawful assembly, or committing simple trespass while engaging in voyeurism. Ref: CGS §53a-182

Places Off-Limits While Carrying

- Primary and secondary schools or school sponsored activities (Unless approved by school officials)
- State park or forest in CT [under further investigation]

Places Off-Limits While Carrying

- ANY federal facility (including Post Offices)
- Any building in which the General Assembly is located
- Any place a legislative committee is holding a public hearing
- Any building in which the official office of any member, officer or employee of the General Assembly or the office of any committee of the General Assembly

You can carry in establishments that serve alcohol. You can not carry while under the influence. Ref: CGS §53-206d

Federal law allows persons with state issued permits or licenses to carry firearms in a school zone. CT state law prohibits carrying on school property. Ref: 18 USC 922(q)

Federal law allows carry in National Parks and Federal Wildlife Refuges in accordance with state law. This means you can carry in these locations. Ref: 16 USC 1a-7a

Some cities and towns have prohibitions against carrying in public parks or buildings. Please review the town ordinances before carrying.

General facts about firearms

Transporting within CT: *Handguns* may be transported on one's person ONLY with a valid permit to carry, otherwise handguns must be unloaded and not readily or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the vehicle. In a vehicle without a trunk this usually means in a locked container.

Long guns must not be transported while containing in the barrel, chamber or magazine loaded shells or cartridges capable of discharging or a percussion cap is in place or when the powder pan of a flint lock contains powder.

Assault weapons must be transported unloaded in the trunk or a container inaccessible by the vehicle operator or any passenger. Ref: CGS §29-35, §53-205, §53-202f

Transporting outside of CT: Federal law provides for the interstate transportation of lawfully owned firearms through states that restrict or prohibit firearms possession ONLY when both of the following is true: 1) it is legal to “possess and carry” the firearm in **BOTH** the originating state and the destination state, and 2) the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition is readily accessible or is directly accessible by the driver/passenger. In a vehicle without a trunk this usually means in a locked container. Ref: 18 USC §926A