

[Whitpain Township Police Department](#)

Pennsylvania Gun Laws, Safety and Registration Information

REFERENCE GUIDE

FIREARMS

REFERENCE/INFORMATION

Open Carrying of a Firearm

“Open Carry” is defined as the carrying of a hand gun, shotgun or rifle readily recognizable as a firearm to the general public. The firearm is not obscured by any clothing or material and the owner is making no effort to hide the presence of the firearm. Citizens are afforded this right under the [2nd Amendment of the Constitution of The United States](#).

EXCEPT:

1. Within the city limits of Philadelphia
2. In a motor vehicle ([see below: Securing a Firearm](#))
3. On school property
4. In any federal facility, courthouse or adult or juvenile detention facility
5. In any state park
6. On private property where it is expressly prohibited by the owner

Concealed Carrying of a Firearm

“Concealed Carry” is defined as the legal carrying of a hand gun out of the view of the general public. The firearm is intentionally hidden beneath clothing or material to hide its presence. This is covered under section 6106 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. ([Attach link for section of the Crimes Code here](#)) It states that in order for any person to lawfully carry a concealed firearm he/she MUST obtain a License To Carry Firearms from the County Sherriff’s Office of which he/she resides. It should be noted that a full background check will be done and references will be contacted.

Obtaining a Concealed Carry Firearms Permit

The process to acquire a Concealed Carry Firearms Permit involves both the local police department where the applicant resides and the County Sherriff’s Department. [The Chief of Police of Whitpain Township](#) will conduct a local records check; copy the applicant’s driver’s license and other relevant information. [Applications may be obtain at the police department or by clicking on the link below to download a copy](#). They complete a report noting any questionable contact which is forwarded to the County Sheriff’s Department. The Sheriff’s Department has the applicant complete a state supplied application form (SP 4-127), ([Attach link to the](#)

applications) which requires two (2) references. It is their responsibility to complete the process, evaluate the application, and make a determination whether or not to issue the Concealed Carry Permit. The [Whitpain Township Police Department](#) does not contact references.

Purchasing a Firearm

Can only be legally purchased through a vendor with a Federal License to sell firearms. To purchase a hand gun an individual must be 21 years of age or older. To purchase a shotgun or rifle an individual must be 18 years of age or older. Background checks will be completed on all weapons EXCEPT:

1. The private sale of a shotgun or a rifle
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Securing a Firearm

This is up to the individual firearm owner. There is no State Law that governs how a firearm owner has it secured inside his/her home. However, individuals have been criminally charged when negligent storage of a firearm has led to injury or death of another. [The Whitpain Township Police Department](#) encourages all gun owners to secure their weapons when not in use.

[If you do not possess a concealed carry permit and are transporting a firearm in a personal vehicle, separate the ammunition and the firearm.](#)

Firearms Registration

In Pennsylvania it is illegal for any government or police agency to keep a registry of firearms per [18 Pa.C.S. §6111.4 \(Registration of Firearms\)](#). [\(Attach link of the Crimes Code section\)](#) If you legally possess, bring your firearms into Pennsylvania, or come into possession of the firearms legally, no further action is required.

It should be noted that all transfers of handguns in Pennsylvania are required to go through the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) and the Pennsylvania State Police keeps a "Sales Database" of all handguns purchased within the Commonwealth. While almost any casual observer may perceive that this violates the spirit of [18 Pa.C.S. §6111.4 \(Registration of Firearms\)](#), the Pennsylvania Supreme Court agreed with the Pennsylvania State Police that because the database is not a complete record of all handgun ownership (as people bringing handguns into the state do not have to register them), it does not.