

Iowa Permit to Carry Weapons and Permit to Acquire a Pistol or Revolver Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

APPLICATION PROCESS - QUESTION: How do I apply for a new, renewal, or duplicate Nonprofessional Permit to Carry Weapons?

ANSWER: Under Iowa law, the Nonprofessional Permit to Carry Weapons is issued to residents of Iowa by the Sheriff of the applicant's county of residence. Several Iowa Sheriff's Office are using an online version of the application form. An applicant should check with the Sheriff's Office of the applicant's county of residence to obtain details about the application procedure, including hours of operation, office location, and forms of payment accepted.

CHILDREN - QUESTION: Is it legal for me to allow my minor children to target practice with my handgun?

ANSWER: For many years, the minimum age for supervised possession of a handgun by a minor had been 14. More recent law eliminates the minimum age provision, and explicitly states that the required supervision must be direct supervision, and the person who is supervising possession of a handgun by a minor must not be intoxicated or impaired by alcohol or drugs. Please note that ranges may have age requirements for use of their respective facilities.

COVID RELATED – QUESTION: I choose to wear a protective mask when in public, and I also have a permit to carry weapons. Is it legal to wear facial covering while expressing my right to legally carry a firearm?

ANSWER: Iowa code does not place any type of clothing restrictions on a permit holder in a public place. Please keep in mind that Iowa cannot speak for surrounding states, nor do we retain data associated with this.

DUPLICATES - QUESTION: I lost my permit, or my permit was damaged beyond recognition. Can I obtain a duplicate of a current permit?

ANSWER: Yes. A person who wishes to obtain a duplicate permit can do so by contacting the Sheriff's Office in their county of residence and paying a fee set by law at \$25.

MOVE WITHIN IOWA - QUESTION: I have moved since my permit was issued, or I will be moving soon. Do I need to obtain a permit showing my new address?

ANSWER: Iowa DPS recommends that a permit holder notify the Sheriff's Office in their new county of residence by applying for a duplicate permit when moving between counties. While there is no statutory requirement to obtain a "duplicate" permit when you change counties, you may want to note that when attempting to purchase a firearm, there are federal firearms licensed dealers that may not accept the permit unless it matches the county listed on your Driver's License or State I.D.

OUT-OF-STATE QUESTION – QUESTION: I live in another state. Can I get an Iowa Nonprofessional Permit to Carry Weapons?

ANSWER: No. Iowa nonprofessional permits to carry weapons will only be issued to qualified Iowa residents. Nonresidents will still be able to apply for professional permits to carry weapons if needed for employment related reasons.

PURCHASE – QUESTION: Does my permit to carry weapons enable me to make a purchase of a pistol or revolver, or do I need to obtain a Permit to Acquire Pistols or Revolvers?

ANSWER: In the State of Iowa, a valid permit to carry weapons may be used to acquire a pistol or revolver without the need to also obtain a Permit to Acquire Pistols and Revolvers.

RENEWALS - QUESTION: I have a Permit to Carry Weapons that will be expiring soon. What do I need to do to renew the permit?

ANSWER: Effective July 1, 2017, there is a 60 day renewal window. A person wishing to renew a Permit to Carry Weapons must apply within 30 days before the permit expires, or within 30 days after the permit expires. Any permits falling outside of the previously mentioned window must be charged the higher "new" permit fee. Please note that while a permit can be renewed within 30 days after it expires, a person whose permit has expired should not go armed in a fashion that requires a permit until a person has renewed their permit.

TRAINING – QUESTION: Is it possible to take online training to meet the legal training requirement needed obtain a permit to carry in Iowa?

ANSWER: Iowa allows for training courses to be taken online. Iowa Code 724.9 regulates the requirements for “training.” Prior to paying and taking the course, the Iowa DPS would suggest ensuring that the course you are taking, provides you with a certificate that fits the requirements under the 724.9. The Iowa Department of Public Safety does not have the ability to suggest one course over another, nor do we have the authority to maintain a list of qualified instructors.

TRAINING FOR RENEWALS - QUESTION: Do I need to complete another training course to renew my Permit to Carry Weapons?

ANSWER: No. A person who holds (or held) a permit issued on or after January 1, 2011, is not required to complete another training course to renew or obtain a new permit to carry weapons. Please note that even though re-training is not required, completing another training course or taking other steps to learn about law changes could be highly beneficial to a person who intends to go armed.

TRANSFER – QUESTION: I’d like to give my family member my handgun, or bequeath them my handgun when I die. Do they need a Permit to Acquire Pistols and Revolvers?

ANSWER: A permit to acquire is not required IF, the person transferring the pistol or revolver and the person acquiring the pistol or revolver are related to one another within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, UNLESS the person transferring the pistol or revolver knows that the person acquiring the pistol or revolver would be disqualified from obtaining a permit.

TRAVELLING THROUGH THE STATE OF IOWA – QUESTION: I am traveling through the State of Iowa, have a valid permit issued through a different state, and I’m not a resident of the State of Iowa. Will Iowa honor my permit?

ANSWER: Iowa has by statute (724.11A), “Universal Recognition” for people who are not residents of the State of Iowa, but have a valid permit issued to them through a different state. A person that benefits from this code section would be treated as though they have a valid permit issued by the State of Iowa (For carry purposes)

TRAVELLING TO A DIFFERENT STATE – QUESTION: I am traveling to a different state, does that state have reciprocity with Iowa?

ANSWER: Iowa does not maintain a list of states that honor Iowa’s permit. A permit holder would have to reach out directly to the State that they are travelling through to establish whether or not the said state would honor a valid permit issued by the State of Iowa.

WEAPONS PERMIT STATUS: - QUESTION: How do I check the status of my weapon permit?

ANSWER: The Iowa Department of Public Safety acts a secure gateway for the printing of uniform weapons permits for the 99 Sheriff’s Office in the State of Iowa. At present, once the permit is uploaded securely to the print contractor, the permit is printed and mailed that day, or the following business day. If you have further questions associated to the status of your weapons permit application you will need to direct your inquiry to the agency where you applied.