

BASIC FIREARMS SAFETY

Safety must be your first concern when handling, using, or storing any firearm. **These safety rules must always be followed:**

- Always treat a firearm as if it is loaded.
- Always make sure the firearm is pointed in a safe direction.
- Always keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until you are ready to fire.
- Always keep the firearm unloaded until you are ready to use it.
- Always be aware that safety devices can (and sometimes do) fail.
- Always make sure the firearm is in safe operating condition before using it.
- Always use ammunition designed for use in your firearm.
- Always be sure of your target and what lies behind it.
- Always wear ear and eye protection when shooting.
- Always refrain from using alcohol or drugs before or when shooting.
- Always store firearms in a locked container and separate from ammunition. Be certain that firearms are inaccessible to children and unauthorized adults.

CHILDREN AND FIREARMS

Few accidents are as tragic, or as preventable, as those involving children and firearms. Having children in the home, whether they live there or are visiting, makes it even more important to practice safe storage of firearms:

- Do not underestimate the ability of children to find or reach a firearm you thought was safely hidden.
- Check stored firearms periodically to be sure that security devices are still intact, and that the firearms have not been loaded by an unauthorized person. Not only will this help ensure that your firearms are stored safely, this will also allow you to inspect your firearms for dirt, corrosion, or other conditions requiring maintenance or repair.
- There are many safety programs designed for children. As soon as they are old enough to

understand, educate your children about firearms safety.

REMEMBER: Most firearms accidents are preventable. Protect yourself and your loved ones by taking firearms safety seriously.

?? COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ??

- Q. If I possess a valid license to carry a firearm, am I required to undergo a Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) background check to purchase a firearm?
- A. Yes. Section 6111 of the Uniform Firearms Act (UFA) requires that a dealer complete a PICS check before delivering a firearm to a buyer. The exception granted to license to carry holders and law enforcement officers applied to the waiting period which was replaced by the instant check, and no longer applies.
- Q. What if I own a firearm, and I am convicted of a crime which prohibits me from possessing firearms?
- A. You have 60 days from the date of the imposition of any disability (such as a conviction which prohibits ownership of a firearm) to sell or transfer any firearms you own to a person who is not a member of your household.
- Q. Do I need a license to carry to possess a firearm?
- A. You do not need a license to carry to possess a firearm; however, a license to carry is required for the purpose of carrying a firearm concealed on or about your person, or in a vehicle within this Commonwealth. Exceptions can be found in Section 6106(b) of the UFA.
- Q. What do I need to do if I want to sell or transfer a firearm to a friend?
- A. PA residents can transfer a long gun to another PA resident providing the individual is not prohibited. Handgun transfers must be completed at a licensed firearm dealer's place of business. Private transfers for any type of firearm to an individual who resides in another state must be processed through a licensed firearm dealer from the buyer's state of residence.

- Q. When processing a private transfer, will the dealer charge me a fee?
- A. There is a \$2.00 fee to run a PICS check to verify that the intended recipient of the firearm is not prohibited. In addition, most firearm dealers have a processing fee that is determined by the individual dealers. Therefore, you may want to ask the dealer what his fee is prior to initiating the transfer.
- Q. If I have a criminal record from many years ago, and I have not committed a prohibited offense since then, is it possible that I may be able to purchase a firearm?
- A. The current Uniform Firearms Act does not exempt criminal records from a specific time period in order to acquire a firearm. Also, criminal records are not automatically expunged (deleted) after a period of time. In Pennsylvania, a court order is required to expunge non-conviction information. Conviction information may not be expunged. It is possible to obtain court ordered relief from a firearm disability, which may grant eligibility to acquire a firearm.
- Q. Can I allow persons under the age of 18 to use firearms?
- A. Yes, persons under the age of 18 (minors) may possess or transport a legal pistol, revolver, shotgun, or rifle under the following circumstances:
- The person is under the supervision of a parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or an adult acting with the expressed consent of the minor's custodial parent or legal guardian, and the minor is engaged in lawful activity, including safety training, lawful target shooting, engaging in an organized competition involving the use of a firearm, or the firearm is unloaded and the minor is transporting it for a lawful purpose; or
 - The person is lawfully hunting or trapping in accordance with 34 Pa.C.S. (relating to game).
- Q. What types of identification do I need to purchase a firearm?

A. Dealers may accept any one of the following documents as identification:

- Valid photo drivers license or ID card.
- Valid government-issued photo ID card.

Because Pennsylvania is a point of contact (POC) for the National Instant Check System (NICS), operational November 30, 1998, we agree to do the federal firearms background check (Brady check) which requires a photo identification card. Even though Pennsylvania law provides for non-photo ID for members of religious sects whose tenets forbid or discourage the taking of photographs, it is now required that a form of government-issued photo ID be provided.

Q. What would prohibit me from lawfully possessing or purchasing a firearm?

A. There are 38 crimes for which a conviction would prohibit a person from lawfully purchasing or possessing a firearm under the UFA. There are nine conditions which would prohibit this also. The prohibiting offenses and conditions listed in the UFA under § 6105 are as follows:

PROHIBITING OFFENSES & CONDITIONS:

OFFENSES:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| §908 | Prohibited offensive weapons |
| §911 | Corrupt organizations |
| §912 | Possession of weapon on school property |
| §2502 | Murder |
| §2503 | Voluntary manslaughter |
| §2504 | Involuntary Manslaughter, if reckless use of a firearm |
| §2702 | Aggravated assault |
| §2703 | Assault by prisoner |
| §2704 | Assault by life prisoner |
| §2709.1 | Stalking |
| §2716 | Weapons of mass destruction |
| §2901 | Kidnapping |
| §2902 | Unlawful restraint |
| §2910 | Luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure |
| §3121 | Rape |
| §3123 | Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse |
| §3125 | Aggravated indecent assault |
| §3301 | Arson and related offenses |
| §3302 | Causing or risking catastrophe |