

# FLORIDA STATE STATUTE 790 WEAPONS AND FIREARMS

Chapter 790 of Florida State Statutes governs firearms and weapons within the state. This brochure only summarizes the state statute and is intended as a guide and not as legal advice. It **DOES NOT** include all of the laws regarding firearms, which are subject to change at any time. Please consult F.S.S. 790 directly or a law enforcement agency for more specific information and details. This pamphlet does not address Federal Law or Florida county and city ordinances regarding firearms.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Anyone who owns a firearm should understand that there is a great responsibility in owning and using it. Therefore, you are encouraged to take courses designed to provide training in safety and proper use. **You are responsible for your actions!**

## OWNERSHIP

You must be 18 years of age or older to own or possess a handgun, rifle, or shotgun. To purchase these items, you must be at least 21 years of age.

## FLORIDA STATUTES PORTAL

WEAPONS AND FIREARMS: CHAPTER 790  
[HTTP://WWW.LEG.STATE.FL.US/STATUTES/INDEX.CFM?](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?)

### CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE, INVERNESS, FL 34450

MAIN LINE 352-726-4488 • NON-EMERGENCY 352-249-2790 • EMERGENCY 9-1-1

WWW.SHERIFFCITRUS.ORG @SHERIFFCITRUS

# GUN SAFETY RULES

## ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION

This is the primary rule of gun safety. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on the circumstance.

## ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT

When holding a gun, rest your finger alongside the frame and outside the trigger guard. **Do not touch the trigger until you are actually ready to fire.**

## ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO USE

If you do not know how to properly handle a firearm, leave it alone and get help from someone who does.

- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Know how to use the gun safely.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- Never use alcohol, over-the-counter drugs, or prescription drugs before or while shooting.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.
- Regular cleaning is important in order to operate correctly and safely.

# CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FIREARM SAFETY

## FLORIDA FIREARMS GUIDE

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LAWS  
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA



CITRUS COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
Mike Prendergast

## PURCHASE AND DELIVERY

For individuals without a concealed carry permit, there is a three-day waiting period for delivery of a firearm(s) after a sale. The waiting period excludes weekends, legal holidays, and the time it takes to complete the required criminal background check. This rule pertains to guns sold by licensed firearms dealers. For exemptions to the waiting period, please consult F.S.S. 790 for further information.

## INTERSTATE TRAVELING

Each state has specific rules for the transportation of firearms - consult each state's guidelines before traveling. For a complete list of states that offer reciprocal carry rights for those who hold Florida Concealed Weapons Permits, please visit [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com).

## SELF-DEFENSE WEAPONS

Self-defense chemical sprays, non-lethal stun guns, dart-firing stun guns, or other non-lethal electric weapons or devices may be carried concealed as long as they are being carried for self-defense purposes only.

## CHILDREN

All loaded firearms must be secure from a child's access. This means the firearm must be in a locked box, container, or secured by a gun lock. It is a misdemeanor to allow a child to have access to a firearm or fail to stop a child from gaining access to a firearm.

Children under the age of 16 are not permitted to use BB or air operated guns unless they are under supervision and in the presence of an adult who is acting with the consent of the minor's parent.

## FIREARMS IN VEHICLES

Firearms and weapons may be kept in motor vehicles providing:

- 🎯 The weapon is carried for self-defense and other lawful purposes.
- 🎯 The weapon is not readily accessible or is securely encased

*"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.*

## CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY

As of July 1st, 2023, Florida now allows eligible U.S. citizens to carry a concealed firearm without a permit and completion of a training course. Both Florida residents and non-residents are eligible to carry a concealed firearm in public if they would otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for obtaining a Florida concealed carry permit. This new law does not allow a citizen to conceal carry a firearm on school grounds, in government buildings, or at certain special events. This law will not discontinue or prevent a person from obtaining their concealed carry permit.

## CONCEALED WEAPONS CARRY

To be eligible to carry a concealed firearm, you must be a U.S. Citizen at least 21 years of age. While carrying a concealed firearm, you must carry identification and display it to law enforcement upon request.

## 🚫 TWO OR THREE-STEP RULE? 🚫

In the state of Florida, there is **no such thing** as a two or three step rules to gain access to a handgun while in a vehicle. The law states that the handgun must be "securely encased" or not accessible for immediate use.

## FIREARMS IN HOMES OR ON YOUR OWN PROPERTY

Firearms can be stored anywhere in the home and in any method as long as the firearm is secure from a child's access or other unauthorized persons. It is lawful to openly carry a firearm on **your own property**. Permits are not required.

## FIREARM RESTRICTIONS

Florida law prohibits the possession of firearms by those who have been convicted of a felony, or have committed certain drug or domestic violence-related crimes, or have court orders related to mental health.

## OPEN CARRYING OF WEAPONS

Florida law does **NOT** permit the open carrying of firearms with the exception of certain activities, such as hunting. See the statute or regulations for more information.

## DISCHARGING FIREARMS OUTDOORS

F.S.S 790.15 states "Any person who recreationally discharges a firearm outdoors, including target shooting, in an area that the person knows or reasonably should know is primarily residential in nature and that has a residential density of one or more dwelling units per acre, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree."

## GENERAL FIREARMS RULES

A shotgun or rifle may be carried in a rack, on the seat, or anywhere you choose as long as it is being carried for legal purposes. All firearms are permitted to be loaded at all times with the exception of certain federal, state, and local wildlife management areas or where otherwise posted. Firearms are not permitted on school grounds, government buildings and certain special events. See F.S.S 790 for more details.