

## **MAY I CARRY MY WEAPON AT THE AIRPORT?**

The answer is **NO!** Please carefully read the documentation below that TSA has provided our agency.



## **Transportation Security Administration**

### **Acknowledgement of Penalties**

Possession of a firearm at an airport passenger screening checkpoint violates Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 1540.111(a). Persons who violate this regulation are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$12,856 per violation. Specifically, an individual may not have a weapon, explosive, or incendiary on or about the individual's person or accessible property when: 1) screening has begun before the individual enters the sterile area; 2) the individual is entering or in the sterile area; or 3) when the individual is attempting to board or onboard an aircraft. Violation of this provision may also subject the individual to arrest under local, state, and Federal statutes and/or ordinances. Please refer to [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for more information.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED, AND WHAT ARE YOUR OFFICE HOURS?**

Our office is open Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm. We are located at 700 East Fourth Street, Suite 120, Charlotte, N.C. 28202. We can be reached at 704-336-3665

#### **WHAT FORM OF PAYMENT DO YOU ACCEPT FOR ALL SERVICES?**

We accept cash, money order, certified check, debit card and all major credit cards. However, if paying by a credit or debit card you will be charged a convenience fee. This fee is paid to the company that provides this order, payment and processing system to the public. If paying by credit or debit card you must pay at the time you submit the online application. The office staff cannot accept the credit card payment in the office.

### **FINGERPRINTING**

#### **HOW MUCH DOES FINGERPRINTING SERVICE COST? WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME?**

The cost for the fingerprinting service is \$10.00 for every 5 fingerprint cards you wish to obtain. *Example: 5 cards for \$10.00, 10 cards for \$20.00, etc.*

You will need to bring a valid driver's license or state issued ID card with you as well as any fingerprint cards or electronic submission forms you may have been provided.

If electronic submission forms are required, you should obtain those from the agency that is requiring you to get fingerprinting. Our office does **NOT** provide the necessary forms for electronic submission.

### **DO I NEED AN APPOINTMENT FOR FINGERPRINTING SERVICES?**

Effective May 4, 2022, Mecklenburg County Judge Eady-Williams granted a preliminary injunction which requires the Sheriff's Office to make fingerprint services available for all new concealed applicants within 5-days of the application being submitted, therefore; our office will no longer accept appointments for CHP fingerprints so we can meet this mandate. The Sheriff's Office is open from 8 am until 5 pm but will stop accepting fingerprint customers at 4:30 pm to ensure everyone can be accommodated. When arriving at the Sheriff's Office please anticipate long wait times as applicants will be helped on a first come, first serve basis.

### **HANDGUN PURCHASE PERMITS**

#### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN A PURCHASE PERMIT?**

- be a citizen, a naturalized citizen or a resident alien
- be twenty-one (21) years of age
- have attained at least one month's residency in Mecklenburg County
- provide a valid driver's license or other picture ID with current address provided by the state of North Carolina

A criminal background check must be performed before granting of permit. Permit to purchase a handgun is valid for a period of five (5) years from date of issue.

Effective December 1, 2015, North Carolina General Statute 14-404(e1) requires applicants to sign an AOC-917 form for release of court orders concerning mental health and capacity for pistol purchase permits.

#### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PROCESS MY PURCHASE PERMIT?**

N.C. General Statute 14-404 requires the Sheriff's Office to process the handgun purchase permit within 14 days of the application. However, over the last year we have been experiencing extremely high volumes of purchase permit applications, so the process is taking longer. Once your application is completed you will be notified by phone call, email and text. If your application is approved, the permit will be mailed to the address listed on your application.

Effective December 1, 2015, North Carolina General Statute 14-404(e1) requires applicants to sign an AOC-917 form for release of court orders concerning mental health and capacity for pistol purchase permits.

#### **CAN I FIND OUT IF SOMEONE HAS A CONCEALED OR PURCHASE PERMIT?**

North Carolina General Statute 14-405(b) provides that these records maintained by the sheriff are confidential and are not a public record under G.S. 132-1. However, the sheriff shall make the records available upon request to any federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and shall also make the records available **to the court** if the records are required to be released pursuant to a court order. Any application to a court for release of the list of permit holders and permit application information shall be by a petition to the chief judge of the district court for the district in which the person seeking the information resides.

## **HOW FAR BACK DO YOU SEARCH ON A CRIMINAL HISTORY FOR A PURCHASE PERMIT?**

There is no limitation to how far back a criminal history record is searched. However, effective 12/01/15, HB 562 allows the Sheriff's Office to deny for good moral character on handgun purchase permits. For purposes of determining an applicant's good moral character, the Sheriff can only consider the applicant's conduct and criminal history for the five-year period prior to the date of the application. This pertains to good moral character only.

## **WHAT CONSTITUTES LACK OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER FOR A PURCHASE PERMIT?**

North Carolina General Statute § 14-404 requires the sheriff to determine an applicant's good moral character when the person is applying for a pistol purchase permit. Effective December 1, 2015 for all pistol purchase permits issued on or after that date, the sheriff is only able to consider an applicant's conduct and criminal history for the five-year period immediately preceding the date of the application for purposes of determining an applicant's good moral character to receive a permit. This five-year period only applies to a sheriff's evaluation of an applicant's good moral character. If a crime or condition occurs outside this five-year period, the sheriff may consider it if the crime or condition is independently a disqualifier for a pistol purchase permit (for example, a felony conviction or involuntary commitment).

The term "good moral character" is not defined in our statutes nor is there a case specifically on point as to what constitutes good moral character for purposes of a pistol purchase permit.

However, there are a number of appellate court cases in North Carolina that discuss an individual's good moral character for purposes of receiving some other type of permit or license. The Supreme Court of North Carolina has said "that good moral character is honesty, fairness, and respect for the rights of others and for the laws of the State and nation." *In re Willis*, 288 N.C. 1,10 (1975).

A lack of good moral character can be shown when surrounding facts or circumstances, viewed as a whole, reveal "a pattern of conduct that permeates the applicant's character and could seriously undermine public confidence..." *In re Legg*, 325 N.C. 658, 674 (1989). However, a person's good moral character can also be focused or defined by one or more instances if appropriately egregious. *In re Rogers*, 297 N.C. 48 (1979). As applied to a pistol purchase permit, sheriffs should look at a pattern of conduct or a significant event occurring in the preceding five years which is representative of the person's current character and has a relationship to the individual's inability to possess firearms in a safe and responsible manner. For example, an individual with multiple charges involving the use of alcohol and the unlawful discharge of or carrying of a firearm may fit these criteria.

## **CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT (CHP)**

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN A CONCEALED PERMIT?**

- be twenty-one (21) years of age

- be a resident of Mecklenburg County and a resident of North Carolina for thirty (30) days
- be a citizen or naturalized citizen of the United States of America or a lawful permanent resident alien
- not suffer from any mental or physical infirmity which would prevent safe handgun handling and operation
- provide a valid N.C. driver's license or other picture ID with current address provided by the state of North Carolina
- successfully complete a firearms training and safety course that has been designed by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Standards Commission (See Yellow Pages or a firearms dealer for businesses that provide training) **ONLINE COURSE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!!**

A criminal background check is performed on each applicant before granting the permit.

#### **HOW MUCH DOES A CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT COST?**

**New Permit** - If you are applying for a concealed permit for the first time you will be required to pay a non-refundable fee of \$90.00 to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. This includes a full set of fingerprints.

Click here <https://mcso.permitium.com/ccw/application?permitttype=new> to fill out the application and schedule an appointment. Please do **NOT** schedule a fingerprint appointment in addition to your concealed appointment.

At the time of your appointment you will need to bring the following items:

- Paperwork packet
- **Original** NC Safety Training course certificate
- Driver's license or ID card
- DD-214 (if applicable)
- Proof of citizenship (if born outside of the US).

**Renewal Permit** - If you are applying for a renewal permit and have **not** expired you will be required to pay a non-refundable fee of \$75.00 to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Click here to fill out the application.

<https://mcso.permitium.com/ccw/application?permitttype=renewal>. Once you have filled out the application you must sign the application and ALL other pages that require a signature and have it notarized. Once notarized you may upload the packet, a copy of your concealed permit and a copy of your N.C. driver's license via order tracker provided in the email you received when you submitted your application. If you cannot upload the packet you may mail the signed and notarize packet to our office. **No appointment is necessary.**

N.C. General Statute 14-415.16 grants a 60-day grace period to renew if you have expired. If you have expired beyond the 60-day grace period for renewal you will be

required to obtain another N.C. Safety Training Course and submit a new concealed handgun permit application and pay the non-refundable fee of \$90.00. Click her to fill out the application and schedule an appointment.

<https://mcso.permitium.com/ccw/application?permitttype=new>

**N.C. General Statute 14-415.16. Renewal of permit.**

(a) At least 45 days prior to the expiration date of a permit, the sheriff of the county where the permit was issued shall send a written notice to the permittee explaining that the permit is about to expire and including information about the requirements for renewal of the permit. The notice shall be sent by first class mail to the last known address of the permittee. Failure to receive a renewal notice shall not relieve a permittee of requirements imposed in this section for renewal of the permit.

(b) The holder of a permit shall apply to renew the permit within the 90-day period prior to its expiration date by filing with the sheriff of the county in which the person resides a renewal form provided by the sheriff's office, an affidavit stating that the permittee remains qualified under the criteria provided in this Article, a newly administered full set of the permittee's fingerprints, and a renewal fee.

(c) Upon receipt of the completed renewal application and the appropriate payment of fees, the sheriff shall determine if the permittee remains qualified to hold a permit in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 14-415.12. The permittee's criminal history shall be updated, including with another inquiry of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), and the sheriff may waive the requirement of taking another firearms safety and training course. If the permittee applies for a renewal of the permit within the 90-day period prior to its expiration date and if the permittee remains qualified to have a permit under G.S. 14-415.12, the sheriff shall renew the permit. The permit of a permittee who complies with this section shall remain valid beyond the expiration date of the permit until the permittee either receives a renewal permit or is denied a renewal permit by the sheriff.

(d) No fingerprints shall be required for a renewal permit if the applicant's fingerprints were submitted to the State Bureau of Investigation after June 30, 2001, on the Automated Fingerprint Information System (AFIS) as prescribed by the State Bureau of Investigation.

(e) If the permittee does not apply to renew the permit prior to its expiration date but does apply to renew the permit within 60 days after the permit expires, the sheriff may waive the requirement of taking another firearms safety and training course. This subsection does not extend the expiration date of the permit.

**ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL COST TO THE CONCEALED APPLICATION?**

**Effective October 1, 2015**, NCGS 14.415.15(a) was amended to provide that no mental health provider, or other person or entity may charge the applicant for this CCH required medical background check. **This change in the law only applies to CCH applications submitted on or after October 1, 2015.** The Sheriff's Office is not responsible for intervening in/resolving any dispute you have with Presbyterian regarding whether or not you must pay Presbyterian/Novant for a copy of your records to be sent to the Sheriff's Office. You must address that issue directly with Presbyterian. MCSO has no control over how quickly Presbyterian/Novant responds to the MCSO statutorily required inquiry into your medical records. MCSO is not the cause of or responsible for any delay in MCSO receiving information from Presbyterian/Novant. If you have any questions regarding your rights and obligations regarding this service for

you from Presbyterian/Novant Health, you can contact Presbyterian Medical Records Department at 704-384-4150.

### **WHO IS EXEMPT FROM HAVING TO TAKE THE FIREARMS SAFETY AND TRAINING COURSE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT?**

North Carolina exempts the following persons from having to take the firearms safety and training course:

- a. A North Carolina law enforcement officer from a local, State, or company police agency who has been retired for less than two years. (The retired officer must have either non-forfeitable rights under their respective retirement plan or have 20 years or more aggregate years of service);
- b. A current North Carolina law enforcement officer who is authorized to carry a handgun in the course of his or her duties;
- c. A person licensed or registered by the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board as an armed security guard and who has a firearms registration permit issued by the Board;
- d. An individual retired as a North Carolina probation or parole officer or as a North Carolina State correctional officer so long as the officer has been retired for less than two years; and
- e. A person qualified to carry a concealed firearm by the N.C. Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission under the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-415.12A.

There is no exception in North Carolina for active duty or retired out-of-state officers, military members, or federal law enforcement officers.

### **IS MY CONCEALED PERMIT FROM ANOTHER STATE VALID IN NORTH CAROLINA?**

Yes, your permit will be valid in North Carolina until it expires with the issuing state. However, when carrying a North Carolina permit in another state you should check the list of states that has reciprocity with North Carolina. For a list of those states, please visit the link below. If North Carolina has reciprocity with the issuing state, you will need to obey the North Carolina laws while carrying in North Carolina.

<http://www.ncdoj.com/About-DOJ/Law-Enforcement-Training-and-Standards/Law-Enforcement-Liason/Concealed-Weapon-Reciprocity.aspx>

### **HOW DO I CHANGE MY ADDRESS ON MY CONCEALED PERMIT TO REMAIN IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.C. GENERAL STATUTE 14-415.11(D)?**

Any individual who has been issued a valid permit must notify the issuing sheriff of any permanent change of address within thirty (30) days. In order to change your address on your CHP you must first update your driver's license with the new address. You will need to fill out the "[Change of Address](#)" form found under the forms tab. Once filled out send the request via fax @ 704-336-6974, email to

[mcsogprequests@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:mcsogprequests@mecklenburgcountync.gov), or USPS to our office. You will also need to include a copy of updated N.C. driver's license and a copy of your existing permit.

#### **I HAVE LOST MY CONCEALED PERMIT, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**

If the permit is lost or destroyed, he/she must notify the issuing sheriff of such loss. The permittee is then eligible to obtain a duplicate permit by submitting to the sheriff a notarized statement found under the forms section named "**Loss/Destruction**". You must fill out the form and have it notarized. Once notarized, mail the form and the required duplicate permit fee of \$15.00 in the form of a money order or certified check to our office. Payment must be made out to Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Please include a copy of your driver's license.

***A duplicate can ONLY be obtained if your permit has been lost or destroyed. We cannot issue a duplicate permit for an address or name change.***

*Please refer to N.C. General Statute 14-415.11(d) 14-415.11(d) A person who is issued a permit shall notify the sheriff who issued the permit of any change in the person's permanent address within 30 days after the change of address. If a permit is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the permit was issued shall notify the sheriff who issued the permit of the loss or destruction of the permit. A person may obtain a duplicate permit by submitting to the sheriff a notarized statement that the permit was lost or destroyed and paying the required duplicate permit fee.*

#### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PROCESS MY CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT?**

Once your appointment has been completed and all paperwork has been received, MCSO has 45 days to issue or deny once we receive **ALL** the information back from the mental health facilities. Unfortunately, the facilities are not mandated by statute to return the releases within a certain timeframe so there is a delay receiving them back. We apologize for the inconvenience, but our goal is to ensure each citizen is given the attention needed to complete the process.

#### **CAN I FIND OUT IF SOMEONE HAS A CONCEALED OR PURCHASE PERMIT?**

North Carolina General Statute 14-405(b) provides that these records maintained by the sheriff are confidential and are not a public record under G.S. 132-1. However, the sheriff shall make the records available upon request to any federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and shall also make the records available **to the court** if the records are required to be released pursuant to a court order. Any application to a court for release of the list of permit holders and permit application information shall be by a petition to the chief judge of the district court for the district in which the person seeking the information resides.

#### **DO I NEED AN APPOINTMENT TO TURN IN MY CARRY CONCEALED PERMIT APPLICATION PACKET?**

Effective May 4, 2022, Mecklenburg County Judge Eady-Williams granted a preliminary injunction which requires the Sheriff's Office to make fingerprint services available for all new concealed applicants within 5-days of the application being submitted, therefore; our office will no longer accept appointments for CHP fingerprints so we can meet this mandate. The Sheriff's Office is open from 8 am until 5 pm but will stop accepting fingerprint customers at 4:30 pm to ensure everyone can be accommodated. When arriving at the Sheriff's Office please anticipate long wait times as applicants will be helped on a first come, first serve basis. We apologize for the inconvenience.



### **WHAT DO I NEED IF I HAVE A CARRY CONCEALED PERMIT AND I GET MARRIED OR HAVE MY NAME LEGALLY CHANGED?**

You will need to have your driver's license changed to your legal name first. Once you have obtained your new driver's license you will need to fill out the required document found under the forms section named **"Request Name Change"**. You must fill out the form and have it notarized. Once notarized, mail the form and name change documentation, a copy of your driver's license, and a copy of your current permit to our office. We will make the change and mail you the documentation back to carry along with your existing permit.

### **MY CARRY CONCEALED PERMIT EXPIRED WHILE I WAS DEPLOYED, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**

A concealed carry holder who is or will be deployed for military service can apply with the Sheriff for an extension of the concealed carry permit up to an additional ninety (90) days after the permittee's scheduled deployment is to end. You must be able to provide a copy of your deployment orders showing the dates of deployment.

### **HOW FAR BACK DO YOU SEARCH ON A CRIMINAL HISTORY FOR A CARRY CONCEALED PERMIT?**

There is no limitation to how far back a criminal history record is searched. However, effective July 1, 2015 for all concealed handgun permit applications submitted on or after that date, an application who has been found guilty of or received a prayer for judgment continued or a suspended sentence for one of the following crimes listed in (a) through (t), **AND THREE YEARS HAS PASSED PRIOR TO SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION**, can (if otherwise qualified) receive a concealed handgun permit:

- a. N.C.G.S. § 14-33(a), Simple assault;
- b. N.C.G.S. § 14-226.1, Violation of court orders;
- c. N.C.G.S. § 14-258.1, Furnishing poison, controlled substances, deadly weapons, cartridges, ammunition or alcoholic beverages to inmates of charitable, mental or penal institutions, or local confinement facilities;
- d. N.C.G.S. § 14-269.2, Carrying weapons on campus or other educational property;
- e. N.C.G.S. § 14-269.3, Carrying weapons into assemblies and establishments where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed;
- f. N.C.G.S. § 14-269.4, Carrying weapons on State property and courthouses;
- g. N.C.G.S. § 14-269.6, Possession and/or sale of spring-loaded projectile knives;
- h. N.C.G.S. § 14-277, Impersonation of a law enforcement or other public officer;
- i. N.C.G.S. § 14-277.1, Communicating threats;
- j. N.C.G.S. § 14-277.2, Carrying weapons at parades and other public gatherings;
- k. N.C.G.S. § 14-283, Exploding dynamite cartridges and/or bombs (however violations for fireworks violations under N.C.G.S. § 14-414 are NOT a bar);
- l. N.C.G.S. § 14-288.2, Rioting and inciting to riot;
- m. N.C.G.S. § 14-288.4(a)(1), Fighting or conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence;
- n. N.C.G.S. § 14-288.6, Looting and trespassing during an emergency;



- o. N.C.G.S. § 14-288.9, Assault on emergency personnel; Former N.C.G.S. § 14-288.12, Violations of city State of Emergency Ordinances;
- q. Former N.C.G.S. § 14-288.13, Violations of county State of Emergency Ordinances;
- r. Former N.C.G.S. § 14-288.14, Violations of State of Emergency Ordinances;
- s. N. C. G. S . § 14-415.21(b), Violations of the standards for carrying a concealed weapon;
- t. N.C.G.S. § 14-415.26(d), Misrepresentation on certification of qualified retired law enforcement officers.

