

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 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.

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, this summer 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.