



POLICE DEPARTMENT, COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, N.Y.
PISTOL LICENSING BUREAU
30 YAPHANK AVENUE YAPHANK NEW YORK 11980
PHONE: 631-852-6311 FAX: 631-852-6670 SUFFOLK COUNTY WEBSITE: www.suffolkcountyny.gov
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM



PDCS-4021

The following is a list of commonly asked questions regarding pistol licensing. More detailed information regarding pistol licensing can be found in the Suffolk County Police Department's Pistol License Information Handbook, located here:

<http://apps.suffolkcountyny.gov/police/documents/PDCS-4000o.pdf>

1. Do I have to own a handgun to maintain my pistol license?

No.

2. May I carry my gun loaded on my person when I go to the range?

Yes, but it is not recommended that you do so. It is recommended that a license holder transport their firearm unloaded, in a box or a bag. However, if you do choose to carry the firearm, it must be carried concealed, and in compliance with the restrictions applicable to your endorsement.

3. Do I have to secure my gun in a locked box when traveling through NYC?

NYC mandates pistol license holders transport their handguns in a locked box separate from the ammunition and in the trunk or in a location not readily accessible to any occupant in the vehicle. Your travel through city limits must be continuous with no extraneous stops.

4. What if I move from the address listed on my pistol license to a new address in the five western towns of Suffolk County?

You must personally appear with your license for the filing of an Amendment Form at the Suffolk County Police Pistol Licensing Bureau no later than ten (10) days after this change becomes effective. You must change the address on your New York State Driver License prior to responding to the Pistol Licensing Bureau, at which time you will have to submit proof of your relocation, and supply the requisite fee.

5. What if I am going to move out of my current licensing jurisdiction and my new residence will still be in New York State?

You are required to respond to the Pistol Licensing Bureau and fill out an Amendment Form. Your license file will then be forwarded to your new licensing jurisdiction. Some jurisdictions will accept the file and issue you a new license, some will make you go through a new application process immediately, and others will make you wait until your current license is about to expire and will require you to file a new application several months prior to its expiration date.

6. If I plan on moving out of state, how can I legally transport my firearms to my new home?

Federal Law allows you to transport your firearms during your final move, unloaded and stored in a location not readily accessible to any occupant in the vehicle. Within ten (10) days of said move you must notify this office of your new address, telephone number and the disposition of all your registered

handguns. We strongly recommend you check with local authorities before you relocate to determine what licensing laws you must comply with, if any.

7. As a New York State pistol license holder, how do I buy a handgun from someone in another state and register it in New York State?

The handgun must be shipped from a licensed gun dealer in the originating state to a licensed New York State Dealer in Firearms. You will have to obtain a purchase document from the Pistol Licensing Bureau and submit to and pass a NICS check before you can take possession of the handgun from that New York State dealer.

8. Can anyone with a Federal Firearms License receive a handgun for me?

No, although a Federal Firearms License (FFL) may be all a person needs in some states, New York State also requires in addition to the FFL, a New York State Dealer in Firearms License when receiving and shipping handguns. The only exception to that rule is the shipping to and from a gun manufacturer i.e., Smith & Wesson or Glock, for repairs. A handgun can be shipped directly to a manufacturer by its registered owner via common carrier, second-day air, or faster. The repaired firearm can then be shipped directly back to the registered owner. A replacement firearm for one that cannot be repaired **must** be shipped to a New York State Dealer in Firearms.

9. What do I need to purchase a handgun?

You must respond to the Pistol Licensing Bureau with a bank check, personal check or money order as well as a receipt from a NYS Dealer in Firearms indicating the make, model, type, caliber and serial number of the firearm(s) being purchased to obtain purchase documents for same. The cost is \$5.00 for each handgun and an additional \$5.00 for any other applicable amendment to the license.

10. Do you take cash?

No, we are not authorized to take any form of payment other than a bank check, personal check or money order.

11. Who do I make out the check to?

Checks must be made out to SCPD.

12. My license is under suspension, am I still required to abide by the handbook?

Yes. The laws, rules, regulations, and requirements of this handbook apply to all licensees, including while under suspension.

13. I just received a Notice of Suspension. Can I sell my handguns to a gun dealer or transfer them to an immediate family member?

No. Only after the handguns have been surrendered may they be transferred in accordance with state and federal law.

14. When are pistol license renewal applications mailed?

Renewal applications are generally mailed two (2) months prior to the license expiration date. You are responsible to know when your license is about to expire. Renewing a pistol license is your responsibility. If your license is not renewed within thirty days after its expiration, the license will be cancelled and you will be required to surrender all handguns.

15. If I change my residence, will the Post Office forward my renewal package?

No, renewal packages will not be forwarded. If you change your residence, you are required by law to file an amendment form within ten (10) days of your move. If you make the proper notification, the package will be mailed to your current address.

16. On my renewal application, who do I list as the person to safeguard my weapons? Do they have to have a license?

You are to designate a responsible person who will agree to surrender or facilitate the surrender of your handguns for safekeeping in the event of your hospitalization, and/or incapacitation. In the event of your death such designee must legally dispose of your guns within fifteen (15) days. It is NOT necessary such person has a pistol license.

17. For a renewal, what do I need for proof of residency? Can I show my Driver License?

A Driver License alone is not an acceptable document to confirm residency. You must additionally produce a voter registration card, tax statement, utility bill, cable bill, telephone bill, etc.

18. What does the NYSID box represent that I see on my renewal application?

That number is issued by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice to identify you from the thousands of other residents that have had their fingerprints submitted to the state for criminal history searches. Your NYSID number is listed on the rear of your renewal instructions.

19. On your renewal application you have a question that asks if I have been arrested or summoned to court. What if I was arrested since my last renewal and I already notified you about it. Do I still have to indicate it on the application?

Yes, indicate the nature of the charge and insert in the space after that question: "ALREADY INVESTIGATED BY YOUR OFFICE". No additional notarized statement will be necessary.

20. Do I have to bring my guns in for inspection when I renew my pistol license?

No, unless specifically requested to do so.

21. Is there a limit to the number of guns I can own?

No.

22. What if I plan on going to a gun show upstate and I don't know what gun I want to buy; can I still get a purchase document?

Yes. You must respond to the Pistol Licensing Bureau with documentation of the gun show and apply for a blank purchase document.

23. If I report one of my handguns lost or stolen and the police officer tells me he or she will notify the Pistol Licensing Bureau, do I still have to notify the Bureau anyway?

Yes you do! Under any of the circumstances listed in Chapter 6 of the Pistol License Information Handbook in the section heading: "INCIDENTS THAT REQUIRE NOTIFICATION TO THE PISTOL LICENSING BUREAU", you are also required to make the notification to this office within the specified time frame.

24. Can a family member and I put the same gun on our licenses so we don't have to be together to fire the weapon?

No. A handgun may only be registered to one (1) person.

25. Are firearms defined under federal law as "antique firearms" automatically considered "antique firearms" under New York State Law?

Not necessarily.

Federal law defines an "antique firearm" as:

- a.) Any firearm manufactured on or before 1898, or
- b.) Any replica of any firearm described in subparagraph (A) if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rim fire or conventional center fire fixed ammunition, or uses rim fire or conventional center fire fixed ammunition which is no longer manufactured in the U.S. and which is not readily available in the ordinary channels of trade.

State law defines an "antique firearm" as:

Any unloaded muzzle loading pistol or revolver with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, or a pistol or a revolver which uses fixed cartridges which are no longer available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

In plain language if ammunition is readily available, or if you possess the ammunition or components required to fire the weapon, it is not an "antique firearm," in New York State, and it must be registered.