



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
FRANKLIN SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

JOHN F. STREET
Mayor

SYLVESTER M. JOHNSON
Commissioner

Dear Licensee:

You have applied for and been granted a license to carry a concealed firearm as provided in Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act, Section 6109.

As the issuing authority, I feel a duty to offer some words of caution and advice. A permit to carry a concealed firearm is a privilege- not a right. It is subject to revocation should you abuse it.

I would ask that you practice care and safety in carrying a concealed firearm and consider:

1. You should be familiar with the safe handling, care and operation of your firearm. Read the manufacturer's instructions and care guidelines. Also seek training by a competent instructor. Otherwise, you may represent a potential threat to yourself, your family, and your fellow citizens. The law does not require such training. Therefore, it is your responsibility to take the necessary steps to acquire it.
2. Any overt and unnecessary display of firearms in public places can cause alarm and adverse reactions by fellow citizens. Do not create a situation which could result in the revocation of your permit.
3. You should have knowledge of the laws pertaining to deadly force and its legal application under Pennsylvania statutes. An improper or careless decision can expose you to criminal prosecution and/or civil liability.
4. Your permit does not exempt you from obeying appropriate local statutes or ordinances governing behavior with firearms.
5. The carrying of a firearm creates the possibility of it being taken from you and used against you or another person.
6. When traveling out-of state, your permit is invalid. The permit is ONLY valid in Pennsylvania.
7. When you are not carrying a firearm, it should be securely stored in a safe location, unloaded and out of reach of children. Ammunition should be stored in a separate location. You should not store your weapon in a vehicle, locker or other accessible location in the home or business when not actively carrying the weapon.
8. Alcohol should not be indulged and certain medications or any controlled substance should not be ingested when carrying a firearm. Avoid locations where alcoholic beverages are served when carrying a firearm. Remember: even if you are not drinking, others are, and their inhibitions and judgement are affected. Common sense should dictate when and where it is necessary to carry a concealed firearm.
9. A concealed firearm permit does NOT confer law enforcement powers. Anyone giving the false impression that they are acting in a law enforcement capacity will be subject to immediate license revocation and criminal prosecution.
10. A private security guard or watchman's firearms permit does NOT exempt him/her from the Pennsylvania legal requirement for certification according to Act 235 Lethal Weapons Training. Certification information can be obtained from the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Standards and Certification Pa. (717) 533-9111.

11. A firearms permit does NOT exempt you from obtaining a Pennsylvania hunting and/or fishing license in order to engage in such activities.
12. A **Protection from Abuse (PFA) Order** is grounds for revocation of your permit. Once a PFA order has been issued you must surrender your permit to carry. The permit should be returned to the Gun Permit Unit.
13. **IMPORTANT:** When in contact with a law enforcement officer, follow all instructions given. Police officers and other law enforcement personnel, as part of their official duties, may encounter you either on the street, inside a business or residence, or during a vehicle stop. The officer(s) are unaware that you may be armed. You should not make any sudden moves. You should inform the officer, as soon as possible, that you are armed and possess a valid permit to carry. Then follow the officer's instructions explicitly.
14. In the event your Permit to Carry becomes stolen, lost, or misplaced, you must call police and file a report immediately. Upon obtaining an Incident Report Number from the District of Occurrence, you must then file a Lost/Stolen report with the Gun Permit Unit. You are **NOT** permitted to continue carrying a firearm until this Unit has made a subsequent investigation and a new permit card / number can be issued to you.

These are a few of the many considerations you should bear in mind. By using COMMON SENSE at all times, you will not abuse the considerable responsibility that you have assumed by possessing a concealed firearm permit.

Sylvester M. Johnson
Police Commissioner
Philadelphia Police Department