

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Division of State Police

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Pistols / Revolvers

C.G.S. § 29-27 defines “pistol” and “revolver” to mean “any firearm having a barrel less than 12 inches in length”

C.G.S. §29-28 requires a permit to carry a pistol or revolver within the state and sets forth permit requirements such as:

- must reveal no intent to use pistol or revolver for any purpose other than a legal one
- Suitability
- Must have taken approved firearms safety course
- No felony conviction
- 21 years of age or over,
- 11 misdemeanor prohibitorsetc.

Pistols / Revolvers (without a permit)

C.G.S. § 29-35 reads

“No person shall carry any pistol or revolver upon his or her person, except when such person is within the dwelling house or place of business of such person, without a permit to carry the same....”

Note: There is no statute that requires a permit to carry or own a long gun

No mandatory registration in Connecticut

Suitability Requirement

“**Suitability**” is not specifically defined and is within the discretion of the issuing authority

- A decision that the applicant is “unsuitable” must not be arbitrary or capricious; must have “just cause” to support
- The decision must be based on legitimate governmental interest to protect the safety of the general public from individuals whose conduct has shown them to be lacking the essential character or temperament necessary to be entrusted with a weapon

Factors: conduct, judgment, character, reputation, habits, behavior, physical condition, mental condition, previous conduct as a licensee

Sale or Transfer of Pistols/Revolvers

C.G.S. 29-33:

- requires that a person selling or transferring a handgun ensure that the recipient is not a prohibited person
- Prior to the sale or transfer, requires a “written application” to Dept of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- Also requires the seller to obtain an “authorization number” indicating that a background check has been performed by Dept of Emergency Services and Public Protection

DPS-67-C

APPLICATION TO PURCHASE A FIREARM - SECTIONS 29-33 AND 29-37a OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

WEAPON TYPE: HANDGUN LONG GUN SALE AUTHORIZATION NUMBER (S): _____

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE MM/DD/YYYY

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: _____
(POST OFFICE BOXES NOT ACCEPTED) NUMBER STREET TOWN STATE ZIP

SEX: ___ RACE: ___ HEIGHT: ___ WEIGHT: ___ EYE COLOR: ___ HAIR COLOR: ___

SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____ COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: _____ INS #: _____
OPTIONAL REQUIRED IF APPLICABLE

PISTOL PERMIT/ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE #: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____
MM/DD/YYYY

POLICE IDENTIFICATION #: _____ AGENCY NAME: _____

DRIVERS LICENSE #: _____ STATE: ___ EXPIRATION DATE: _____
REQUIRED MM/DD/YYYY

HUNTING LICENSE #: _____
LONG GUNS ONLY

- a. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a felony? Yes No
- b. Have you been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic/family violence? Yes No
- c. Are you now the subject of a restraining or protective order issued by a court, after notice and an opportunity to be heard has been provided to you, in a case involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person? Yes No
- d. Have you ever been confined in a hospital for a mental illness within the past twelve (12) months by order of a probate court? Yes No
- e. Have you been discharged from custody within the past twenty (20) years after having been found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect? Yes No
- f. Are you the subject of a court issued seizure order (risk warrant) per CGS 29-38c? Yes No

Information provided on this application is subject to verification from sources including probate, civil, and criminal courts as well as governmental agencies pursuant to State and Federal Law, e.g., P.A. 98-129 (An Act Concerning Handgun Safety) and 18 USC 922 (The Brady Act), as may be amended.

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. I UNDERSTAND THAT PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON THIS DOCUMENT IS A VIOLATION OF SECTION 29-34 AND/OR 29-37e OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES AND CONSTITUTES A CLASS D FELONY.

SIGNATURE OF PURCHASER DATE

I UNDERSTAND THAT A PERSON WHO ANSWERS, "YES" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS IS PROHIBITED FROM PURCHASING A FIREARM.

SIGNATURE OF SALESPERSON DEALER NAME IF APPLICABLE DATE

DPS-3-C

State of Connecticut
Department of Public Safety
Sale or Transfer of All Firearms

Date of Sale	Sale Authorization No.	Manufacturer	Exact Model	Serial Number		
Caliber/Gauge	Gen. Description	Barrel Length	Handgun	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
			Long Gun	<input type="checkbox"/>		
			Other	<input type="checkbox"/> *		
Purchaser <i>(Print First, Middle, Last Name)</i>			Pistol Permit, Eligibility Certificate, Police ID or FFL #			
Purchaser's Address <i>(No., Street, City/Town, ZIP)</i>						
Seller <i>(Print First, Middle, Last Name)</i>			Pistol Permit, Eligibility Certificate, Police ID or FFL #			
Date of Birth	Seller's Address <i>(No., Street, City/Town, ZIP)</i>					
Signature of Seller			Signature of Purchaser			
Seller, obtain authorization number (860) 685-8400, retain the original copy for your records, give one copy to the purchaser as a receipt, submit one copy to the local police authority where the purchaser resides, and submit a final copy to the Commissioner of Public Safety at: DPS Special Licensing & Firearms Unit 1111 Country Club Rd., Middletown, CT 06457-2389						

DPS-3-C (Rev. 10/1) * "Other" refers to frames, receivers, NFA weapons, etc. See instructions for Question 18 on ATF form 4473

Sale or transfer of a Long Gun

- 18 years and older
- No disqualifying convictions or court orders
- Transfer paperwork is not required for a secondary sale. This means that although encouraged, a background check is not necessarily performed in the case of a secondary (non-retail) long gun sale
- Retail sales of long guns are governed by C.G.S. §29-36l

NICS

(National Instant Criminal Background Check System)

- Required by the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act of 1993
- Searches three federal databases (NCIC, III, NICS Index) to determine whether transfer of a firearm would violate state or federal law
- Connecticut participates in NICS, but not all states do
- Instantaneous results

State Permits/Out of State Residents

Any bona fide resident of the United States having no bona fide residence or place of business within the jurisdiction of any local authority in the state, but has a permit or license to carry a pistol or revolver issued by the authority of another state or subdivision of the United States, may apply directly to the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit for a Connecticut State Pistol Permit.

Assault Weapons

- Assault Weapons:
 - Defined in 53-202a
 - Ex: A semiautomatic rifle with a detachable magazine AND two of the following:
 - Folding or telescoping stock
 - Pistol grip
 - Bayonet mount
 - Flash suppressor or barrel designed to accommodate same
 - Grenade launcher
- C.G.S. §53-202c prohibits possession of an assault weapon (exception: possession prior to Oct. 1, 1993)

Machine Guns

C.G.S. §53-202:

- Defined as “a weapon of any description... which shoots, is designed to shoot or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one projectile, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger...”
- Must be registered with ATF and DESPP; cannot be used for offensive or aggressive purposes and cannot be transferred to anyone under age 16

Grounds for Revocation

- All felonies (any state)
- Disqualifying misdemeanors (11 charges)
- Restraining & Protective Orders
- Illegal aliens
- Subject of firearms seizure warrant (C.G.S. §29-38c)
- Convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense, as defined in section 46b-120

Grounds for Revocation (cont.)

- Discharged from custody, found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect within the last 20 years
- Confined in a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities, as defined in section 17a-495 within the last 12 months by order of a Probate Court
- Is prohibited from shipping, transporting, possessing or receiving a firearm pursuant to 18 USC 922 (g)(4)
- “Unsuitable Person”

11 Disqualifying Misdemeanor Convictions

21a-279(c) Possession of Illegal Drugs (Marijuana less than 4oz) (ok if prior to 1983)

53a-58 Criminally Negligent Homicide
(ok if prior to 1983)

53a-61 Assault 3RD Degree

53a-61a Assault of a Victim 60 or Older 3rd Degree

53a-62 Threatening

11 Disqualifying Misdemeanor Convictions (cont)

53a-63 Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree

(ok if prior to 1969)

53a-96 Unlawful Restraint 2nd Degree

(ok if prior to 1969)

53a-175 Riot 1st Degree

53a-176 Riot 2nd Degree

53a-178 Inciting a Riot

53a-181d Stalking 2nd Degree

Convicted of a Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence (18USC, Sec 922(g) (9))

- A misdemeanor under federal or state law; and
- Has, as an element, the use or attempted use of physical force, or the threatened use of a deadly weapon, committed by a current or former spouse, parent or guardian of the victim, or by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, or by a person who is cohabitating with or who has cohabitated with the victim or spouse, parent, or guardian, or by any person similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim

Appeals For Denials and Revocations

All appeals for denials and revocations are referred to the Board of Firearm Permit

Examiners located at:

State Office Bldg., 20 Trinity St, Hartford,
CT 06106

Tel 860-566-7078

All appeals must be made within 90 days of the notice of denial or revocation.

Restraining & Protective Orders

Pursuant to 53a-217, a person is guilty of criminal possession of a firearm when such person possesses a firearm and knows that such person is subject to a restraining order or protective order issued by the court, after notice and an opportunity to be heard has been provided to such person, in a case involving the use or threatened use of physical force against another person (Class D felony)

Domestic Violence C.G.S. 46b-38b

When an family violence arrest is made upon speedy information, a police officer may seize any firearm at the location where the crime was alleged to have been committed that is in the possession of any such person or in plain view. Not later than 7 days, the firearms are to be returned to the rightful owner unless that person is now ineligible to possess.

Transfer of pistols/revolvers or firearms after being made ineligible

- Must take place within two business days of occurrence
- Handguns may only be transferred to an eligible person who holds a valid CT permit or eligibility certificate. Long guns may be transferred to an eligible person
- Must fill out DPS-3 Transfer Form and DPS-67-C form, then obtain an authorization number through DESPP prior to transferring the firearm

Risk Warrants

C.G.S. §29-38c

Allows officers to seize “any and all firearms” by warrant where there is probable cause to believe

1. a person poses a risk of imminent personal injury to himself or herself or to others;
2. such person possesses one or more firearms; and
3. such firearm(s) are within or upon any place, thing or person