



Gun Laws (M.G. L. ch. 140, s. 131 and ch. 269 s. 10, 12B & 14)

In 1998, Massachusetts enacted some of the toughest gun control laws in the country. These laws have significantly changed requirements regarding the purchase, possession, carrying, storage and licensing of firearms. This summary highlights a few of the key points. However, it in no way sets forth all of the obligations and rights for individuals with regard to firearm laws.

Local police departments have the authority to issue gun permits. Such permits included licenses to carry (LTC) and firearms identification cards (FID). There are two types of license to carry permits. **Class A License to Carry** is the only permit that authorizes a holder to carry a concealed and loaded firearm. **Class B License to Carry** permits a holder to purchase, possess and carry non-large capacity handguns and large capacity rifles and shotguns.

There are also two types of firearm identification cards. **Class C** firearm identification card is an unrestricted permit allowing for the possession of non-large capacity rifles and shotguns. The **Class D** firearms identification card is the restricted version solely available for the possession of the chemical sprays, such as mace and pepper spray.

Massachusetts gun laws require that all firearms, rifles and shotguns be stored in a secured, locked container or equipped with a tamper resistant mechanical lock or a safety device properly engaged as to render the weapon inoperable by unlawful use. Every firearm and large capacity weapon sold in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must be equipped with a safety device (trigger lock) designed to prevent discharge by an unauthorized user.

No one may possess, transport or store any type of firearm in a building or on the ground of any school without prior authorization by the board in charge of the school.

New residents have 60 days to obtain proper licenses. Non-residents may obtain temporary licenses to carry through the Firearms Records Bureau in order to process and transport firearms through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All non-residents must comply with Massachusetts laws regarding transportation and storage while in the Commonwealth. The information for the Firearms Records Bureau is as follows: FRB, Criminal History Systems Board, 200 Arlington Street, Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, (617) 660-4780, www.mass.gov/chsb/frb.

(Please note that federal law allows for the interstate transportation of a firearm unloaded, locked in the trunk (or otherwise inaccessible from the passenger compartment). The ammunition likewise must not be accessible from the passenger compartment. Disassembly is highly recommended. This is called the Volker-McClure Act of 1986. However, a person must be able to lawfully possess the firearm at the point of origin and at the point of destination.)