

GEORGIA WEAPONS CARRY PERMIT LAW

A person commits the offense of "Carrying a Concealed Weapon" when he knowingly has or carries about his person, unless in open manner and fully exposed to view, any bludgeon, metal knuckles, firearms, a knife designed for the purpose of offense and defense, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument of like character outside of his house or place of business, except as permitted by Georgia Code Section 16-11-126.

If convicted of the offense "Carrying a Concealed Weapon", a person shall be punished as follows: (1) for the first offense, the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; (2) for the second offense, or any subsequent offense, the person shall be guilty of a felony.

THE GEORGIA LAWS SHALL PERMIT, OUTSIDE OF THE HOME, MOTOR VEHICLE, OR PLACE OF BUSINESS, THE CONCEALED CARRYING OF A PISTOL, REVOLVER, OR CONCEALABLE FIREARM BY ANY PERSON IF THAT PERSON HAS ON HIS OR HER PERSON A VALID LICENSE UNDER CODE SECTION 16-11-129. THE PISTOL, REVOLVER OR FIREARM MAY ONLY BE CARRIED IN A SHOULDER OR WAIST BELT HOLSTER, HIPGRIP, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE AND THE WEAPON MAY BE CONCEALED BY THE PERSON'S CLOTHING, HANDBAG OR PURSE, ATTACHÉ CASE, BRIEFCASE, OR OTHER CLOSED CONTAINER.

If a person does not have a weapon's carry permit issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129 and is of age and not a convicted felon, he or she shall be allowed to transport any weapon provided the weapon is enclosed in a case, unloaded and separated from its ammunition.

Any person not so licensed who is of age and who is not a convicted felon also may transport a loaded firearm in any private passenger motor vehicle in an open manner and fully exposed to view or in a glove compartment or console. However, any person who has a permit to carry a weapon can carry the weapon in any location in a motor vehicle.

ANY PERSON WITH A VALID WEAPONS CARRY PERMIT IS PROHIBITED FROM CARRYING A WEAPON WITHIN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: ANY GOVERNMENT BUILDING, COURTHOUSE, JAIL/PRISON, PLACE OF WORSHIP (OR CHURCH), STATE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY, BAR (UNLESS PERMITTED BY THE OWNER), NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY, SCHOOL SAFETY ZONE, AND WITHIN 150 FEET OF ANY POLLING PLACE.

ANY PERSON WITH A VALID WEAPONS CARRY PERMIT IS PERMITTED TO CARRY A WEAPON IN ALL PARKS, HISTORIC SITES, OR RECREATIONAL AREAS, INCLUDING ALL PUBLICLY OWNED BUILDINGS LOCATED IN SUCH PARKS, HISTORIC SITES, AND RECREATIONAL AREAS, IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, AND ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

Any resident of any U.S. state who possess a permit to carry a weapon in a state whose laws recognize and take effect to the weapon carry permit laws of this state and who has entered into a reciprocal agreement with the State of Georgia to so recognize such laws shall be authorized to carry in this state.

****STATES THAT RECIPROCATATE:** ALABAMA, ALASKA, ARKANSAS, ARIZONA, COLORADO, FLORIDA, IDAHO, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NORTH CAROLINA, PENNSYLVANIA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, UTAH, WYOMING, AND WISCONSIN.

As always, Georgia weapons carry permit holders should familiarize themselves with the individual requirements and expectations on weapons carry permits in any of the reciprocating states when they wish to exercise their rights under the reciprocity program.

The Walton County Sheriff's Office offers a Weapons Carry Safety Class. Contact Sgt. Scott Whisnant at 770-267-1434 for more details.