

INDIANA HANDGUN LAWS

Indiana is a "shall issue" state, meaning that the licensing authority (in this state, the Superintendent of the Indiana State police) "shall issue" a permit to carry a handgun to a "proper person". The right to keep and bear arms (RKBA) is also long established as an individual right by the Indiana Constitution and decisions of Indiana's appellate courts. Even the federal courts, in the landmark *Emerson* case, have concluded that the right to bear arms is an individual right!

If an applicant is denied a new or renewal permit, the Administrative Adjudication Act guarantees the right to a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at ISP headquarters in Indianapolis. In case of an adverse decision, judicial review is available.

Indiana gun rights lawyer Paul Stanko stands ready to vigorously represent clients in all matters concerning the exercise of their rights to bear arms under the Indiana and United States Constitutions, including both permit hearings and court proceedings.

IC 35-47-2

Chapter 2. Regulation of Handguns

IC 35-47-2-1

Carrying a handgun without a license or by person convicted of domestic battery

35-47-2-1 Sec. 1. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and section 2 of this chapter, a person shall not carry a handgun in any vehicle or on or about the person's body, except in the person's dwelling, on the person's property or fixed place of business, without a license issued under this chapter being in the person's possession.

(b) Unless the person's right to possess a firearm has been restored under IC 3-7-13-5 or IC 33-28-4-8, a person who has been convicted of domestic battery under IC 35-42-2-1.3 may not possess or carry a handgun in any vehicle or on or about the person's body in the person's dwelling or on the person's property or fixed place of business.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.326-1987, SEC.1; P.L.195-2003, SEC.6; P.L.98-2004, SEC.155.

IC 35-47-2-2

Excepted persons

35-47-2-2 Sec. 2. Section 1 of this chapter does not apply to:

- (1) marshals;
- (2) sheriffs;
- (3) the commissioner of the department of correction or persons authorized by him in writing to carry firearms;
- (4) judicial officers;
- (5) law enforcement officers;
- (6) members of the armed forces of the United States or of the national guard or organized reserves while they are on duty;
- (7) regularly enrolled members of any organization duly authorized to purchase or receive such weapons from the United States or from this state who are at or are going to or from their place of assembly or target practice;
- (8) employees of the United States duly authorized to carry handguns;

(9) employees of express companies when engaged in company business;

(10) any person engaged in the business of manufacturing, repairing, or dealing in firearms or the agent or representative of any such person having in his possession, using, or carrying a handgun in the usual or ordinary course of that business; or

(11) any person while carrying a handgun unloaded and in a secure wrapper from the place of purchase to his dwelling or fixed place of business, or to a place of repair or back to his dwelling or fixed place of business, or in moving from one dwelling or business to another.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.

IC 35-47-2-3

Application for license to carry handgun; procedure

35-47-2-3 Sec. 3. (a) A person desiring a license to carry a handgun shall apply:

(1) to the chief of police or corresponding law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the applicant resides;

(2) if that municipality has no such officer, or if the applicant does not reside in a municipality, to the sheriff of the county in which the applicant resides after the applicant has obtained an application form prescribed by the superintendent; or

(3) if the applicant is a resident of another state and has a regular place of business or employment in Indiana, to the sheriff of the county in which the applicant has a regular place of business or employment.

The superintendent and local law enforcement agencies shall allow an applicant desiring to obtain or renew a license to carry a handgun to submit an application electronically under this chapter if federal funds are available to establish and maintain an electronic application system.

(b) The law enforcement agency which accepts an application for a handgun license shall collect the following application fees:

(1) From a person applying for a four (4) year handgun license, a ten dollar (\$10) application fee, five dollars (\$5) of which shall be refunded if the license is not issued.

(2) From a person applying for a lifetime handgun license who does not currently possess a valid Indiana handgun license, a fifty dollar (\$50) application fee, thirty dollars (\$30) of which shall be refunded if the license is not issued.

(3) From a person applying for a lifetime handgun license who currently possesses a valid Indiana handgun license, a forty dollar (\$40) application fee, thirty dollars (\$30) of which shall be refunded if the license is not issued.

Except as provided in subsection (h), the fee shall be deposited into the law enforcement agency's firearms training fund or other appropriate training activities fund and used by the agency to train law enforcement officers in the proper use of firearms or in other law enforcement duties, or to purchase firearms or firearm related equipment, or both for the law enforcement officers employed by the law enforcement agency. The state board of accounts shall establish rules for the proper accounting and expenditure of funds collected under this subsection.

(c) The officer to whom the application is made shall ascertain the applicant's name, full address, length of residence in the community, whether the applicant's residence is located within the limits of any city or town, the applicant's occupation, place of business or employment, criminal record, if any, and convictions (minor traffic offenses excepted), age, race, sex, nationality, date of birth, citizenship, height, weight, build, color of hair, color of eyes, scars and marks, whether the applicant has previously held an Indiana license to carry a handgun and, if so, the serial number of the license and year issued, whether the applicant's license has ever been suspended or revoked, and if so, the year and reason for the suspension or revocation, and the applicant's reason for desiring a license. The officer to whom the application is made shall conduct an investigation into the applicant's official records and verify thereby the applicant's character and reputation, and shall in addition verify for accuracy the information

contained in the application, and shall forward this information together with the officer's recommendation for approval or disapproval and one (1) set of legible and classifiable fingerprints of the applicant to the superintendent.

(d) The superintendent may make whatever further investigation the superintendent deems necessary. Whenever disapproval is recommended, the officer to whom the application is made shall provide the superintendent and the applicant with the officer's complete and specific reasons, in writing, for the recommendation of disapproval.

(e) If it appears to the superintendent that the applicant:

- (1) has a proper reason for carrying a handgun;
- (2) is of good character and reputation;
- (3) is a proper person to be licensed; and
- (4) is:

(A) a citizen of the United States; or

(B) not a citizen of the United States but is allowed to carry a firearm in the United States under federal law;

the superintendent shall issue to the applicant a qualified or an unlimited license to carry any handgun lawfully possessed by the applicant. The original license shall be delivered to the licensee. A copy shall be delivered to the officer to whom the application for license was made. A copy shall be retained by the superintendent for at least four (4) years in the case of a four (4) year license. The superintendent may adopt guidelines to establish a records retention policy for a lifetime license. A four (4) year license shall be valid for a period of four (4) years from the date of issue. A lifetime license is valid for the life of the individual receiving the license. The license of police officers, sheriffs or their deputies, and law enforcement officers of the United States government who have been honorably retired by a lawfully created pension board or its equivalent after twenty (20) or more years of service, shall be valid for the life of these individuals. However, a lifetime license is automatically revoked if the license holder does not remain a proper person.

(f) At the time a license is issued and delivered to a licensee under subsection (e), the superintendent shall include with the license information concerning handgun safety rules that:

- (1) neither opposes nor supports an individual's right to bear arms; and
- (2) is:

(A) recommended by a nonprofit educational organization that is dedicated to providing education on safe handling and use of firearms;

(B) prepared by the state police department; and

(C) approved by the superintendent.

The superintendent may not deny a license under this section because the information required under this subsection is unavailable at the time the superintendent would otherwise issue a license. The state police department may accept private donations or grants to defray the cost of printing and mailing the information required under this subsection.

(g) A license to carry a handgun shall not be issued to any person who:

(1) has been convicted of a felony;

(2) has had a license to carry a handgun suspended, unless the person's license has been reinstated;

(3) is under eighteen (18) years of age;

(4) is under twenty-three (23) years of age if the person has been adjudicated a delinquent child for an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult; or

(5) has been arrested for a Class A or Class B felony, or any other felony that was committed while armed with a deadly weapon or that involved the use of violence, if a court has found probable cause to believe that the person committed the offense charged.

In the case of an arrest under subdivision (5), a license to carry a handgun may be issued to a person who has been acquitted of the specific offense charged or if the charges for the specific

offense are dismissed. The superintendent shall prescribe all forms to be used in connection with the administration of this chapter.

(h) If the law enforcement agency that charges a fee under subsection (b) is a city or town law enforcement agency, the fee shall be deposited in the law enforcement continuing education fund established under IC 5-2-8-2.

(i) If a person who holds a valid license to carry a handgun issued under this chapter:

- (1) changes the person's name;
- (2) changes the person's address; or

(3) experiences a change, including an arrest or a conviction, that may affect the person's status as a proper person (as defined in IC 35-47-1-7) or otherwise disqualify the person from holding a license;

the person shall, not later than thirty (30) days after the date of a change described under subdivision (3), and not later than sixty (60) days after the date of the change described under subdivision (1) or (2), notify the superintendent, in writing, of the event described under subdivision (3) or, in the case of a change under subdivision (1) or (2), the person's new name or new address.

(j) The state police shall indicate on the form for a license to carry a handgun the notification requirements of subsection (i).

(k) The state police department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement an electronic application system under subsection (a). Rules adopted under this section must require the superintendent to keep on file one (1) set of classifiable and legible fingerprints from every person who has received a license to carry a handgun so that a person who applies to renew a license will not be required to submit an additional set of fingerprints.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.26-1990, SEC.15; P.L.48-1993, SEC.5; P.L.140-1994, SEC.6; P.L.269-1995, SEC.6; P.L.2-1996, SEC.284; P.L.27-2001, SEC.1; P.L.120-2001, SEC.1; P.L.49-2005, SEC.2; P.L.187-2005, SEC.3; P.L.190-2006, SEC.2.

IC 35-47-2-4

Qualified or unlimited licenses to carry handguns; fees; exemptions from payment of fees

35-47-2-4 Sec. 4. (a) Licenses to carry handguns shall be either qualified or unlimited, and are valid for:

- (1) four (4) years from the date of issue in the case of a four (4) year license; or
- (2) the life of the individual receiving the license in the case of a lifetime license.

A qualified license shall be issued for hunting and target practice. The superintendent may adopt rules imposing limitations on the use and carrying of handguns under a license when handguns are carried by a licensee as a condition of employment. Unlimited licenses shall be issued for the purpose of the protection of life and property.

(b) In addition to the application fee, the fee for:

(1) a qualified license shall be:

(A) five dollars (\$5) for a four (4) year qualified license;

(B) twenty-five dollars (\$25) for a lifetime qualified license from a person who does not currently possess a valid Indiana handgun license; or

(C) twenty dollars (\$20) for a lifetime qualified license from a person who currently possesses a valid Indiana handgun license; and

(2) an unlimited license shall be:

(A) thirty dollars (\$30) for a four (4) year unlimited license;

(B) seventy-five dollars (\$75) for a lifetime unlimited license from a person who does not currently possess a valid Indiana handgun license; or

(C) sixty (\$60) for a lifetime unlimited license from a person who currently possesses a valid Indiana handgun license.

The superintendent shall charge a twenty dollar (\$20) fee for the issuance of a duplicate license to replace a lost or damaged license. These fees shall be deposited in accordance with subsection (e).

(c) Licensed dealers are exempt from the payment of fees specified in subsection (b) for a qualified license or an unlimited license.

(d) The following officers of this state or the United States who have been honorably retired by a lawfully created pension board or its equivalent after at least twenty (20) years of service or because of a disability are exempt from the payment of fees specified in subsection (b):

- (1) Police officers.
- (2) Sheriffs or their deputies.
- (3) Law enforcement officers.
- (4) Correctional officers.

(e) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the state general fund.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.209-1986, SEC.1; P.L.148-1987, SEC.4; P.L.75-1989, SEC.9; P.L.190-2006, SEC.3.

IC 35-47-2-5

Suspension or revocation of license; failure to return license; rules concerning procedure for suspending or revoking license

35-47-2-5 Sec. 5. (a) The superintendent may suspend or revoke any license issued under this chapter if he has reasonable grounds to believe that the person's license should be suspended or revoked.

(b) Documented evidence that a person is not a "proper person" to be licensed as defined by IC 35-47-1-7, or is prohibited under section 3(g)(5) of this chapter from being issued a license, shall be grounds for immediate suspension or revocation of a license previously issued under this chapter. However, if a license is suspended or revoked based solely on an arrest under section 3(g)(5) of this chapter, the license shall be reinstated upon the acquittal of the defendant in that case or upon the dismissal of the charges for the specific offense.

(c) A person who fails to promptly return his license after written notice of suspension or revocation commits a Class A misdemeanor. The observation of a handgun license in the possession of a person whose license has been suspended or revoked constitutes a sufficient basis for the arrest of that person for violation of this subsection.

(d) The superintendent shall establish rules under IC 4-22-2 concerning the procedure for suspending or revoking a person's license.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.140-1994, SEC.7; P.L.2-1996, SEC.285; P.L.120-2001, SEC.2; P.L.1-2006, SEC.535.

IC 35-47-2-6

Granting or rejecting initial application; renewals

35-47-2-6 Sec. 6. (a) Every initial application for any license under this chapter shall be granted or rejected within sixty (60) days after the application is filed.

(b) The period during which an application for the renewal of an existing license may be filed begins one hundred eighty (180) days before the expiration of the existing license. If the application for renewal of an existing license is filed within thirty (30) days of its expiration, the existing license is automatically extended until the application for renewal is passed upon.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.190-2006, SEC.4.

IC 35-47-2-7

Prohibited sales or transfers of ownership

35-47-2-7 Sec. 7. (a) Except an individual acting within a parent-minor child or guardian-minor protected person relationship or any other individual who is also acting in compliance with

IC 35-47-10, a person may not sell, give, or in any other manner transfer the ownership or possession of a handgun or assault weapon (as defined in IC 35-50-2-11) to any person under eighteen (18) years of age.

(b) It is unlawful for a person to sell, give, or in any manner transfer the ownership or possession of a handgun to another person who the person has reasonable cause to believe:

(1) has been:

(A) convicted of a felony; or

(B) adjudicated a delinquent child for an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, if the person seeking to obtain ownership or possession of the handgun is less than twenty-three (23) years of age;

(2) is a drug abuser;

(3) is an alcohol abuser; or

(4) is mentally incompetent.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.33-1989, SEC.126; P.L.140-1994, SEC.8; P.L.269-1995, SEC.7.

IC 35-47-2-8

Regulation of sale of handguns imposed by this chapter; application

35-47-2-8 Sec. 8. The regulation of the sale of handguns imposed by this chapter shall apply equally to an occasional sale, trade, or transfer between individual persons and to retail transactions between dealers and individual persons.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.17-1997, SEC.6.

IC 35-47-2-14

Necessity of retail handgun dealer's license; display

35-47-2-14 Sec. 14. A retail dealer who:

(1) sells;

(2) trades;

(3) transfers;

(4) exposes for sale, trade, or transfer; or

(5) possesses with intent to sell, trade, or transfer;

any handgun without being licensed under sections 15 and 16 of this chapter and without displaying his license at all times commits a Class B misdemeanor.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.

IC 35-47-2-15

Retail handgun dealer's license; application procedure

35-47-2-15 Sec. 15. (a) A person desiring a retail handgun dealer's license shall apply to the sheriff of the county in which he resides, or if he is a resident of another state and has a regular place of business in Indiana, then to the sheriff of the county in which he has a regular place of business. The applicant shall state his name, full address, occupation, sex, race, age, place of birth, date of birth, nationality, height, weight, build, color of eyes, color of hair, complexion, scars and marks, and any criminal record (minor traffic offenses excepted). The officer to whom the application is made shall verify the application and search his records concerning the applicant's character and reputation.

(b) The officer to whom the application is made shall send to the superintendent:

(1) the verified application;

(2) the results of the officer's investigation; and

(3) the officer's recommendation for approval or disapproval of the application;

in as many copies as the superintendent shall designate, and one (1) set of legible and classifiable fingerprints of the applicant. The superintendent may make whatever further

investigation he deems necessary. Whenever disapproval is recommended by the officer to whom the application was made, he shall provide the superintendent and the applicant with his complete reasons for the disapproval in writing. If the officer to whom the application is made recommends approval, he shall instruct the applicant in the proper method of taking legible and classifiable fingerprints. If it appears to the superintendent that the applicant is of good character and reputation and a proper person to be licensed, he shall issue to the applicant a retail handgun dealer's license which shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the date of issue. The fee for the license shall be twenty dollars (\$20), which shall be deposited with the officer to whom the application is made, who shall in turn forward it to the superintendent for deposit with the treasurer of state when the application is approved by the superintendent. In the event that the application is disapproved by the superintendent, the fee shall be returned to the applicant along with the complete reasons, in writing, for the disapproval.

(c) No retail dealer's license shall be issued to any person who has been:

(1) convicted of a felony; or

(2) adjudicated a delinquent child for an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, if the person applying for the retail dealer's license is less than twenty-three (23) years of age; in Indiana or any other state or country.

(d) A retail dealer's license shall permit the licensee to sell handguns at retail within this state subject to the conditions specified in this chapter. The license may be suspended or revoked in accordance with applicable law, and the licensee may be subject to punishment as provided in this chapter.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.191-1984, SEC.4; P.L.269-1995, SEC.9.

IC 35-47-2-16

Retail handgun dealer's license; restrictions; display; prohibited sales; gun show

35-47-2-16 Sec. 16. (a) A retail dealer's business shall be carried on only in the site designated in the license. A separate license shall be required for each separate retail outlet. Whenever a licensed dealer moves his place of business, he shall promptly notify the superintendent, who shall at once issue an amended license certificate valid for the balance of the license period. This subsection does not apply to sales at wholesale.

(b) The license, certified by the issuing authority, shall be displayed on the business premises in a prominent place where it can be seen easily by prospective customers.

(c) No handgun shall be sold:

(1) in violation of any provision of this chapter; or

(2) under any circumstances unless the purchaser is personally known to the seller or presents clear evidence of his identity.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a retail dealer may display, sell, or transfer handguns at a gun show in accordance with this chapter and federal law.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.191-1984, SEC.5; P.L.148-1987, SEC.5.

IC 35-47-2-17

Giving false information or offering false evidence of identity; violation of section

35-47-2-17 Sec. 17. No person, in purchasing or otherwise securing delivery of a handgun or in applying for a license to carry a handgun, shall give false information or offer false evidence of identity. In addition to any penalty provided by this chapter, any handgun obtained through false information shall be subject to confiscation and disposition as provided in this chapter. Upon notice of a violation of this section by the superintendent, it shall be the duty of the sheriff or chief of police or corresponding officer of the jurisdiction in which the purchaser resides to confiscate the firearm and retain it as evidence pending trial for the offense.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.

IC 35-47-2-18

Obliterating identification marks on handgun or possession of such handguns prohibited

35-47-2-18 Sec. 18. No person shall:

(1) change, alter, remove, or obliterate the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's serial number, or other mark of identification on any handgun; or

(2) possess any handgun on which the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's serial number, or other mark of identification has been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated; except as provided by applicable United States statute.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.

IC 35-47-2-19

Application of chapter

35-47-2-19 Sec. 19. This chapter does not apply to any firearm not designed to use fixed cartridges or fixed ammunition, or any firearm made before January 1, 1899.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.

IC 35-47-2-20

Removal of disability under this chapter

35-47-2-20 Sec. 20. (a) A full pardon from the governor of Indiana for:

(1) a felony other than a felony that is included in IC 35-42; or

(2) a violation of this chapter;

removes any disability under this chapter imposed because of that offense, if fifteen (15) years have elapsed between the time of the offense and the application for a license under this chapter.

(b) A conditional pardon described in IC 11-9-2-4 for:

(1) a felony; or

(2) a violation of this chapter;

removes a disability under this chapter if the superintendent determines after an investigation that circumstances have changed since the pardoned conviction was entered to such an extent that the pardoned person is likely to handle handguns in compliance with the law.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.191-1984, SEC.6; P.L.148-1987, SEC.6.

IC 35-47-2-21

Recognition of retail dealers' licenses and licenses to carry handguns issued by other states

35-47-2-21 Sec. 21. (a) Retail dealers' licenses issued by other states or foreign countries will not be recognized in Indiana except for sales at wholesale.

(b) Licenses to carry handguns, issued by other states or foreign countries, will be recognized according to the terms thereof but only while the holders are not residents of Indiana.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.

IC 35-47-2-22

Use of unlawful handgun-carrying license to obtain handgun prohibited

35-47-2-22 Sec. 22. It is unlawful for any person to use, or to attempt to use, a false, counterfeit, spurious, or altered handgun-carrying license to obtain a handgun contrary to the provisions of this chapter.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.

IC 35-47-2-23

Violations; classes of misdemeanors and felonies

35-47-2-23 Sec. 23. (a) A person who violates section 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, or 16 of this chapter commits a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) A person who violates section 7, 17, or 18 of this chapter commits a Class C felony.

(c) A person who violates section 1 of this chapter commits a Class A misdemeanor.

However, the offense is a Class C felony:

(1) if the offense is committed:

(A) on or in school property;

(B) within one thousand (1,000) feet of school property; or

(C) on a school bus; or

(2) if the person:

(A) has a prior conviction of any offense under:

(i) this subsection; or

(ii) subsection (d); or

(B) has been convicted of a felony within fifteen (15) years before the date of the offense.

(d) A person who violates section 22 of this chapter commits a Class A misdemeanor. However, the offense is a Class D felony if the person has a prior conviction of any offense under this subsection or subsection (c), or if the person has been convicted of a felony within fifteen (15) years before the date of the offense.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32. Amended by P.L.16-1984, SEC.20; P.L.140-1994, SEC.9; P.L.17-1997, SEC.7.

IC 35-47-2-24

Indictment or information; defendant's burden to prove exemption or license; arrest, effect of production of valid license, or establishment of exemption

35-47-2-24 Sec. 24. (a) In an information or indictment brought for the enforcement of any provision of this chapter, it is not necessary to negate any exemption specified under this chapter, or to allege the absence of a license required under this chapter. The burden of proof is on the defendant to prove that he is exempt under section 2 of this chapter, or that he has a license as required under this chapter.

(b) Whenever a person who has been arrested or charged with a violation of section 1 of this chapter presents a valid license to the prosecuting attorney or establishes that he is exempt under section 2 of this chapter, any prosecution for a violation of section 1 of this chapter shall be dismissed immediately, and all records of an arrest or proceedings following arrest shall be destroyed immediately.

As added by P.L.311-1983, SEC.32.