

California Firearms Information Paper

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Many service members arrive each year in California. Quite often they will have questions pertaining to the many laws California has concerning firearms. The purposes of this paper is to address several of the most often asked questions by our military, and provide answers regarding firearms laws, forms and rules.

Am I required by law to store my firearms where children cannot access them?

Yes. In most cases, if you keep any loaded firearm within any premise which is under your custody or control and know or reasonably should know that a child (person under 18 years of age) is likely to gain access to the firearm, you may be guilty of a felony if a child gains access to that firearm and thereby causes death or injury to any person unless the firearm was in a secure locked container or locked with a locking device that rendered it inoperable. (PC Section 12035-12036)

What are the exemptions to the Handgun Safety Certificate requirement?

There are a variety of Handgun Safety Certificate (HSC) requirement exemptions. It should be noted that these exemptions are not identical to the former Basic Firearms Safety Certificate (BFSC) certification exemptions. Two general BFSC exemption categories, persons who hold a valid hunting license issued by the State of California and persons who were honorably discharged from the military, do not qualify as exemptions from HSC certification requirements. However Military Active Duty, Reserve and Honorably Retired Military do qualify.

I live in another state and have a permit to carry a concealed handgun that was issued in my home state. Does my permit allow me to carry a concealed handgun while in California?

No. Weapons permits from other states are not valid in California.
(PC Sections 12025-12031)

If I lose my HSC, can I get it replaced?

It may be possible. The HSC Instructor who issued your original HSC is required to issue you a duplicate HSC and may charge no more than \$15 for issuance of such duplicate. If you are unable to locate the instructor who issued the original HSC, you will need to obtain a new HSC by retaking and passing the HSC test and paying \$25.

These links can be valuable resources to answer many questions concerning California Firearms Laws.

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms/pubfaqs>

Contact Information: <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms/contact>

Forms: <http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/pdfs/firearms/forms/Cfl2007.pdf?>

Handgun Safety Course FAQ's: <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms/hscfaqs#c6>

All information in this paper is derived from the California Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice.

The Defense Language Institute and Foreign Language Center does have a Privately Owned Weapons Policy and it would be prudent to read it prior to obtaining a firearm. A copy may be obtained from the base legal office.

If you have questions concerning the firearms laws of your state. Please call the Legal Assistance Office at phone number (831) 242-5084 to schedule an appointment.