

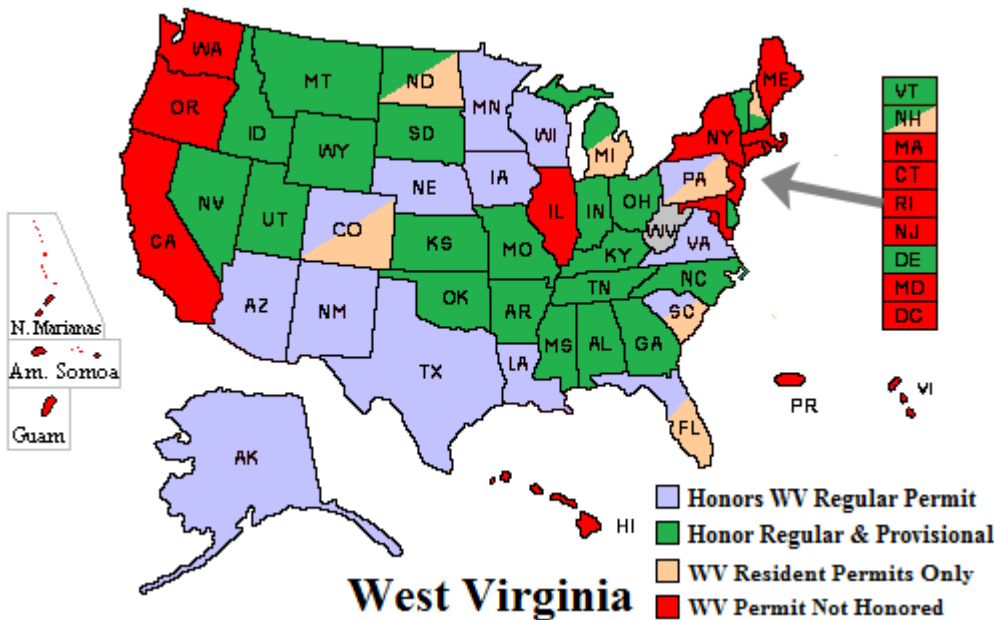
# West Virginia

Permitless Carry State

Shall Issue

Must Inform Officer Immediately: **NO**

[\(See Must Inform Section\)](#)



## West Virginia Links

[State CCW Site](#)

[State CCW Pamphlet](#)  
July 2020

[Attorney General FAQs](#)

[CCW Application](#)

[Provisional Permit App](#)

[St. Police FAQs](#)

[State Statutes](#)

[State Admin Rules](#)

[State Reciprocity Info](#)

[State Attorney General](#)

[2<sup>nd</sup> CCW Info Site](#)

[Age to Carry a Firearm  
In Other States](#)

**Last Updated: 8/4/2022**

**Note:** [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [Georgia](#), [Idaho](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Maine](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [Montana](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#), [Utah](#), [Vermont](#), [West Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#) have "Permitless Carry". Anyone who can legally possess a firearm may carry in these states without a Permit. Check each states page for age and other restrictions that may apply.

[North Dakota](#) has "Permitless Carry" for their Residents only.

## Permits/Licenses This State Honors Listed Below

Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	Colorado
Delaware	Florida	Georgia	Idaho	Indiana
Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana	Michigan
Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri	Montana	Nebraska
Nevada	New Hampshire	New Mexico	North Carolina	North Dakota
Ohio	Oklahoma	Pennsylvania	South Carolina	South Dakota
Tennessee	Texas	Utah	Virginia	Wisconsin
Wyoming				

**West Virginia will honor Resident and Non Resident Permit/Licenses from the states they honor.**  
(Must be 21 years of age or older to carry concealed with a permit WV honors or under Permitless Carry.)

To see the WV AG's listing of states that honor the West Virginia Provisional Permit (18-20 Y/O) click on [State Reciprocity Info](#) in Links Section.

**Note:** West Virginia is a Permitless Carry state and any resident or non-resident who is 21 Y/O or Active Military 18 Y/O and can legally possess a firearm can carry it concealed in West Virginia without any type of permit/license. By statute West Virginia still doesn't honor all other states permit/licenses. This is the reason why the listing of states West Virginia honors doesn't state it honors all other states.

### **Reciprocity/How This State Honors Other States Permit/Licenses**

#### **§61-7-6A. Reciprocity and Recognition; Out-of-State Concealed Handgun Permits.**

(a) Valid out-of-state permit or license to possess or carry a handgun is valid in this state for the carrying of a concealed handgun, if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The permit or license holder is 21 years or older;
- (2) The permit or license is in his or her immediate possession;
- (3) The permit or license holder is not a resident of the State of West Virginia; and,
- (4) The Attorney General has been notified by the Governor of the other state that the other state allows residents of West Virginia who are licensed in West Virginia to carry a concealed handgun to carry a concealed handgun in that state or the Attorney General has entered into a written reciprocity agreement with the appropriate official of the other state whereby the state agrees to honor West Virginia concealed handgun licenses in return for same treatment in this state.

(b) A holder of a valid permit or license from another state who is authorized to carry a concealed handgun in this state pursuant to provisions of this section is subject to the same laws and restrictions with respect to carrying a concealed handgun as a resident of West Virginia who is so permitted, and must carry the concealed handgun in compliance with the laws of this state.

(c) A license or permit from another state is not valid in this state if the holder is or becomes prohibited by law from possessing a firearm.

(d) The West Virginia Attorney General shall seek to obtain recognition of West Virginia concealed handgun licenses and enter into and execute reciprocity agreements on behalf of the State of West Virginia with states for the recognition of concealed handgun permits issued pursuant to this article.

(e) The West Virginia State Police shall maintain a registry of states with which the State of West Virginia has entered into reciprocity agreements or which recognize West Virginia concealed handgun licenses on the criminal information network and make the registry available to law-enforcement officers for investigative purposes.

(f) Every twelve months after the effective date of this section, the West Virginia Attorney General shall make written inquiry of the concealed handgun licensing or permitting authorities in each other state as to: (i) Whether a West Virginia resident may carry a concealed handgun in their state based upon having a valid West Virginia concealed handgun permit; and (ii) whether a West Virginia resident may carry a concealed handgun in that state based upon having a valid West Virginia concealed handgun permit, pursuant to the laws of that state or by the execution of a valid reciprocity agreement between the states.

(g) The West Virginia State Police shall make available to the public a "List of States" which have entered into reciprocity agreements with the State of West Virginia or that allow residents of West Virginia who are licensed in West Virginia to carry a concealed handgun to carry a concealed handgun in that state.

2013 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 369), eff. 7/12/2013

### **Permitless Carry**

#### **§61-7-7. ... Right of Nonprohibited Persons Over Twenty-One Years of Age to Carry Concealed**

## Deadly Weapons ...

(c) *Any person may carry a concealed deadly weapon without a license therefor who is:*

- (1) At least twenty-one years of age;
- (2) A United States citizen or legal resident thereof;
- (3) Not prohibited from possessing a firearm under the provisions of this section; and
- (4) Not prohibited from possessing a firearm under the provisions of 18 U. S. C. §922(g) or (n).

2016 Acts, ch. TBD (HB 4145), eff. 6/3/2016.

### **§61-7-3. Carrying a Deadly Weapon Without Provisional License or Other Authorization by Persons Under Twenty-One Years of Age; Penalties.**

(a) Any person under twenty-one years of age and not otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms under section seven of this article who carries a concealed deadly weapon, without a state license or other lawful authorization established under the provisions of this code, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 and may be imprisoned in jail for not more than twelve months for the first offense; but upon conviction of a second or subsequent offense, he or she is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than one nor more than five years and fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000.

2016 Acts, ch. TBD (HB 4145), eff. 6/3/2016.

### **§61-7-6. Exceptions as to Prohibitions Against Carrying Concealed Handguns for Persons at Least Eighteen Years of Age and Fewer Than Twenty-One Years of Age**

(a) The provisions in section three of this article do not apply to any person at least eighteen years of age and fewer than twenty-one years of age who is:

- (7) **A member of the United States Armed Forces, Reserve or National Guard;**

2016 Acts, ch. TBD (HB 4145), eff. 6/3/2016.

**Note:** Active members of the Military, Reserves or National Guard 18 and older can carry concealed with only their Military ID. You can't carry inside your vehicle on Primary/Secondary School Property if carrying under Permitless Carry. Those 21 or older if they can legally possess a firearm can carry it concealed in all other places a person with a permit West Virginia issues or honors can carry under permitless carry. Though West Virginia will allow residents of West Virginia 18-20 years of age to obtain provisional permits to carry in West Virginia, West Virginia still requires non-residents with a permit/licenses West Virginia honors or those carrying under permitless carry to be 21 years of age or older.

## **How to Apply for a Permit/License**

### **[Links to All West Virginia Sheriffs CCW Information](#)**

**Take a Class as described Below:**

### **§61-7-4. License to Carry Deadly Weapons; How Obtained.**

(a) Except as provided in §61-7-4(q) of this code, a legal resident or citizen of West Virginia desiring to obtain a state resident license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply to the sheriff of his or her county for the license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application, a fee of \$50. A concealed weapons license may only be issued for pistols and revolvers.

(e) All persons applying for a license must complete a training course in handling and firing a handgun, which includes the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant. The successful completion of any of the following courses fulfills this training requirement: Provided, That the completed course includes the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant:

- (1) Any official National Rifle Association handgun safety or training course;
- (2) Any handgun safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by an official law-enforcement organization, community college, junior college, college or private or public institution or organization or handgun training school utilizing instructors duly certified by the institution;
- (3) Any handgun training or safety course or class conducted by a handgun instructor certified as such by the state or by the National Rifle Association;
- (4) Any handgun training or safety course or class conducted by any branch of the United States military, reserve or National Guard or proof of other handgun qualification received while serving in any branch of the United States military, reserve or National Guard.

(h) A license in effect as of the effective date of the amendments to this section enacted during the 2019 regular session of the Legislature shall, subject to revocation for cause, be valid until the licensee's birthday during the fifth year from the date of issuance or five years from the date of issuance, whichever is later in time. Renewals of such licenses and licenses newly issued after the effective date of the amendments to this section enacted during the 2019 regular session of the Legislature, subject to revocation for cause, are valid for a period of five years from the licensee's most recent birthday.

(q) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, with respect to application for a resident license by an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States, reserve, or National Guard, or a former law-enforcement officer honorably retired from agencies governed by [§7-14-1](#) *et seq.* of this code, [§8-14-1](#) *et seq.* of this code, [§15-2-1](#) *et seq.* of this code, and [§20-7-1](#) *et seq.* of this code, an honorably retired officer or an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States is exempt from payment of fees and costs as otherwise required by this section. All other application and background check requirements set forth in this section are applicable to these applicants. 2021 [SB 3032](#)

### **Provisional Permits for WV Residents 18 – 20 Years Old.**

#### **§61-7-4A. Provisional License to Carry Deadly Weapons; How Obtained.** (18-20 Years Old)

(a) Any person who is at least eighteen years of age and less than twenty-one years of age who desires to obtain a state license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply to the sheriff of his or her county for a provisional license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application, a fee of \$15. Provisional licenses may only be issued for pistols or revolvers. Each applicant shall file with the sheriff a complete application, as prepared by the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, in writing, duly verified, which sets forth only the following licensing requirements:

(g) Before any approved license is issued or is effective, the applicant shall pay to the sheriff a fee in the amount of \$15 which the sheriff shall forward to the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police within thirty days of receipt. The provisional license is valid until the licensee 100 turns twenty-one years of age, unless sooner revoked. 2020 Acts, ch. TBD (HB 4955), eff. 6/1/2020.

**Note:** Total Charges would be \$30.00. The Applicant must meet the same requirements as those applying for a regular permit to carry. Provisional Permits will expire on the persons 21<sup>st</sup> birthday no matter what the issuing date. At that time they can apply for the regular permit or carry under West Virginia's Permitless

Carry law. No additional training etc. is required to obtain their regular permit. Handgunlaw.us believes that you could apply up to 45 days before you would turn 21 and the regular permit would be issued on your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Check with your local Sheriff. [Provisional Permit Application](#).

## Non-Resident Permit/License

### [§61-7-4](#). License to Carry Deadly Weapons; How Obtained.

(2) A legal resident or citizen of another state of the United States desiring to obtain a nonresident state license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply to a sheriff of any county in this state for the license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application, a fee of \$100. A concealed weapons license may only be issued for pistols and revolvers.

**Note:** Do not contact the sheriff you are going to apply with as there could be some differences in how they handle the applications. There are no provisions for Non-Residents to apply for a West Virginia Provisional Permit as they are only issued to West Virginia Residents 18-20 Years Old.

See Resident Permit Section on how to apply and a Link to all West Virginia Sheriffs Dept. CCW Page. Handgunlaw.us also recommends you read the complete WV Statute [§61-7-4](#).

## Places Off-Limits Even With a Permit/License

### From the WV AG's [On the Mark](#) Firearms Law Guide for West Virginia

1. Federal government properties or other places where firearms are prohibited by federal law. This includes areas of restricted access in airports.
2. Any property where firearms are prohibited by the owner, lessee or other person charged with the care, custody and control of the real property.<sup>1</sup>
3. The State Capitol Complex.
4. Regional jails, detention facilities or State Division of Corrections facilities.
5. County courthouses or any facility housing a court of this state.
6. Any Public or Private primary or secondary school building, grounds or property, at any school sponsored function or on any school bus or conveyance.<sup>2</sup>
7. Any building or area limited by municipal code. (See Municipalities Below)

<sup>1</sup>While it is not a crime, when armed, to enter property where firearms are prohibited by the owner, lessee or other person charged with care, custody and control thereof, refusal to relinquish the weapon or refusal to leave the premises upon request while in possession of a firearm or other deadly weapon is a misdemeanor punishable by up to one thousand dollars and/or up to six months in jail. There is no requirement in the law that such property be posted as a "no gun" area. The provisions of this section only apply to property where firearms are not otherwise prohibited by law.

### <sup>2</sup>[§61-7-11A](#). Possessing Deadly Weapons on Premises of Educational Facilities; Reports by School Principals; Suspension of Driver's License; Possessing Deadly Weapons on Premises Housing Courts of Law and Family Law Courts.

(a) The Legislature finds that the safety and welfare of the citizens of this state are inextricably dependent upon assurances of safety for children attending and persons employed by schools in this state and for persons employed by the judicial department of this state. It is for the purpose of providing assurances of safety that §61-7-11a(b), §61-7-11a(g), and §61-7-11a(h), of this code and §61-7-11a(b)(2)(I) of this code



are enacted as a reasonable regulation of the manner in which citizens may exercise the rights accorded to them pursuant to section 22, article III of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia.

**(b) (1)** It is unlawful to possess a firearm or other deadly weapon:

**(A)** On a school bus as defined in §17A-1-1 of this code;

**(B)** In or on the grounds of any primary or secondary educational facility of any type: Provided, That it shall not be unlawful to possess a firearm or other deadly weapon in or on the grounds of any private primary or secondary school, if such institution has adopted a written policy allowing for possession of firearms or other deadly weapons in the facility or on the grounds thereof;

**(C)** At a school-sponsored function that is taking place in a specific area that is owned, rented, or leased by the West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission, a county school board, or local public school for the actual period of time the function is occurring.

**(2)** This subsection does not apply to:

**(I)** Any person, 21 years old or older, who has a valid concealed handgun permit may possess a concealed handgun while in a motor vehicle in a parking lot, traffic circle, or other areas of vehicular ingress or egress to a public school: Provided, That:

**(i)** When he or she is occupying the vehicle the person stores the handgun out of view from persons outside the vehicle; or

**(ii)** When he or she is not occupying the vehicle the person stores the handgun out of view from persons outside the vehicle, the vehicle is locked, and the handgun is in a glove box or other interior compartment, or in a locked trunk, or in a locked container securely fixed to the vehicle.

**(3)** A person violating this subsection is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for a definite term of years of not less than two years nor more than 10 years, or fined not more than \$5,000, or both fined and imprisoned.

2018 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 244), eff. 6/8/2018.

**Note:** If you have a permit WV Issues or Honors you can keep your loaded firearm on your person as long as it stays out of sight and you do not get out of the vehicle. You can't carry a loaded firearm on your person or in your vehicle onto K-12 school property if carrying under Permitless Carry.

**§61-6-19. Willful Disruption of Governmental Processes; Offenses Occurring at State Capitol Complex; Penalties.**

**(a)** If any person willfully interrupts or molests the orderly and peaceful process of any department, division, agency, or branch of state government or of its political subdivisions, he or she is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$100, or confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined: *Provided*, That any assembly in a peaceable, lawful, and orderly manner for a redress of grievances is not a violation of this section.

**(b)(1)** It is unlawful for any person to bring upon the State Capitol Complex any deadly weapon as defined in §61-7-2 of this code: *Provided*, That a person who may lawfully possess a firearm may keep a firearm in his or her motor vehicle upon the State Capitol Complex if the vehicle is locked and the weapon is out of normal view: *Provided, however*, That a person may not carry upon the State Capitol Complex, a cannister of pepper spray as defined in §61-7-2 of this code that exceeds one ounce. It is unlawful for any person to willfully deface any trees, wall, floor, stairs, ceiling, column, statue, monument, structure, surface, artwork, or adornment in the State Capitol Complex. It is unlawful for any person or persons to willfully block or otherwise willfully obstruct any public access, stair, or elevator in the State Capitol Complex after being

asked by a law-enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity to desist: *Provided further*, That in order to preserve the constitutional right of the people to assemble, it is not willful blocking or willful obstruction for persons gathered in a group or crowd if the persons move to the side or part to allow other persons to pass by the group or crowd to gain ingress or egress: *And provided further*, That this subsection does not apply to a law-enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity. **(2)** Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100, or confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined. 2020 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 46), eff. 5/11/2020.

**Note:** You have to have a Permit WV Issues or Honors to store a firearm in your vehicle at the State Capitol Complex.

### **§61-7-2. Definitions.**

**(10)** “Concealed” means hidden from ordinary observation so as to prevent disclosure or recognition. A deadly weapon is concealed when it is carried on or about the person in such a manner that another person in the ordinary course of events would not be placed on notice that the deadly weapon was being carried. For purposes of concealed handgun licensees, a licensee shall be deemed to be carrying on or about his or her person while in or on a motor vehicle if the firearm is located in a storage area in or on the motor vehicle.

**(9)** “Pepper spray” means a temporarily disabling aerosol that is composed partly of **capsicum oleoresin** and causes irritation, blinding of the eyes, and inflammation of the nose, throat, and skin that is **intended for self-defense use**. 2020 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 46), eff. 5/11/2020

**Note:** Per §61-7-2 (5/2020) Pepper Spray is no longer defined as a Deadly Weapon.

### **§8-12-5a. Limitations Upon Municipalities’ Power to Restrict the Purchase, Possession, Transfer, Ownership, Carrying, Transport, Sale, and Storage of Certain Weapons and Ammunition.**

**(a)** Neither a municipality nor the governing body of any municipality may, by ordinance or otherwise, limit the right of any person to purchase, possess, transfer, own, carry, transport, sell, or store any deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray, or any ammunition or ammunition components to be used therewith nor to so regulate the keeping of gunpowder so as to directly or indirectly prohibit the ownership of the ammunition in any manner inconsistent with or in conflict with state law.

**(b)** For the purposes of this section:

- (1)** “Deadly weapon” has the meaning provided in [§61-7-2](#) of this code.
- (2)** “Firearm” has the meaning provided in [§61-7-2](#) of this code.
- (3)** “Municipally owned or operated building” means any building that is used for the business of the municipality, such as a courthouse, city hall, convention center, administrative building, or other similar municipal building used for a municipal purpose permitted by state law: *Provided*, That “municipally owned or operated building” does not include a building owned by a municipality that is leased to a private entity where the municipality primarily serves as a property owner receiving rental payments.
- (4)** “Municipally owned recreation facility” means any municipal swimming pool, recreation center, sports facility, facility housing an after-school program, or other similar facility where children are regularly present.
- (5)** “Pepper spray” means a temporarily disabling aerosol that is composed partly of capsicum oleoresin and causes irritation, blinding of the eyes, and inflammation of the nose, throat, and skin that is intended for self-defense use.

**(c)(1)** A municipality may enact and enforce an ordinance or ordinances that prohibit or regulate the carrying

or possessing of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray in municipally owned or operated buildings.

**\*\* (2)** A municipality may enact and enforce an ordinance or ordinances that prohibit a person from carrying or possessing a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray **openly or that is not lawfully concealed** in municipally owned recreation facility: *Provided*, That a municipality may not prohibit a person with a valid concealed handgun license from carrying an otherwise lawfully possessed firearm into a municipally owned recreation facility and securely storing the firearm out of view and access to others during their time at the municipally owned recreation facility.

**(3)** A person may keep an otherwise lawfully possessed deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray in a motor vehicle in municipal public parking facilities if the vehicle is locked and the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray is out of view.

**(4)** A municipality may not prohibit or regulate the carrying or possessing of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray on municipally owned or operated property other than municipally owned or operated buildings and municipally owned recreation facilities pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section: *Provided*, That a municipality may prohibit persons who do not have a valid concealed handgun license from carrying or possessing a firearm on municipally owned or operated property.

**(d)** It shall be an absolute defense to an action for an alleged violation of an ordinance authorized by this section prohibiting or regulating the possession of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray that the person:

**(1)** Upon being requested to do so, left the premises with the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray or temporarily relinquished the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray in response to being informed that his or her possession of the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray was contrary to municipal ordinance; and

**(2)** but for the municipal ordinance the person was lawfully in possession of the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray.

**(e)** Any municipality that enacts an ordinance regulating or prohibiting the carrying or possessing of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall prominently post a clear statement at each entrance to all applicable municipally owned or operated buildings or municipally owned recreation facilities setting forth the terms of the regulation or prohibition.

**(f)** Redress for an alleged violation of this section may be sought through the provisions of [§53-1-1](#) *et seq.* of this code, which may include the awarding of reasonable attorney's fees and costs, if the petitioner prevails.

**(g)** For the purposes of [§61-7-14](#) of this code, municipalities may not be considered a person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property.

**(h)** This section does not:

**(1)** Authorize municipalities to restrict the carrying or possessing of deadly weapons, firearm, or pepper spray, which are otherwise lawfully possessed, on public streets and sidewalks of the municipality; or

**(2)** Limit the authority of a municipality to restrict the commercial use of real estate in designated areas through planning or zoning ordinances.

2020 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 96), eff. 5/31/2020.

**\*\*** The Kanawha County Court has Ruled: Definition of the term "securely stored:" "*... as being on one's person and in a holster, purse, or bag so as long as the weapon remains attached to the individual, firmly adhered to one's body, and is not freely placed.*" You can read the ruling [Here](#).

**Note:** Open Carry or concealed without a permit can be prohibited by a city on their property but must be posted.

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**Note:** The West Virginia State Police Barracks and the DMV Regional Offices that I have been to have signs posted stating "No Firearms." WV preemption (See Preemption Section Below) only covers



municipalities. St. Police and DMV Offices are not mentioned in WV Law on being off limits. I would not want to be the test case. People at the state level are stating that [61-6-19](#) and [61-7-14](#) gives them the authority on all state property.

### **Firearm Carry in West Virginia State Parks**

Park guests may possess and carry cased rifles or shotguns within the boundaries of state parks. "Cased rifle or shotgun" means a rifle or shotgun which is contained in a fully enclosing case which requires a zipper, lid or other cover to be opened for access.

Park guests may possess and carry cased handguns within the boundaries of state parks subject to general state law or restrictions on such carry. "Cased handgun" means a handgun carried for self defense in a concealed manner or a handgun which is otherwise contained in a fully enclosing case or any type of secure holster. No open carry.

Park guests shall not be required to obtain written permission prior to transporting a cased firearm within the boundaries of the area.

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the [USA Page](#).

### **Parking Lot Storage Law**

(Edited For Space Considerations)

#### **§61-7-14 Right of Certain Persons to Limit Possession of Firearms on Premises. (The Business Liability Protection Act).**

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Parking lot" means any property that is used for parking motor vehicles and is available to customers, employees, or invitees for temporary or long-term parking or storage of motor vehicles: Provided, That for purposes of this section, parking lot does not include the private parking area at a business located at the primary residence of the property owner.

(2) "Motor vehicle" means any privately-owned automobile, truck, minivan, sports utility vehicle, motor home, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, motor scooter, or any other vehicle operated on the roads of this state and, which is required to be registered under state law: Provided, That for purposes of this section, motor vehicle does not mean vehicles owned, rented, or leased by an employer and used by the employee in the course of employment.

(3) "Employee" means any person, who is over eighteen years of age, not prohibited from possessing firearms by the provisions of this code or federal law and:

(A) Works for salary, wages, or other remuneration;

(B) Is an independent contractor; or

(C) Is a volunteer, intern, or other similar individual for an employer.

(4) "Employer" means any business that is a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, professional association, cooperative, joint venture, trust, firm, institution, association, or public-sector entity, that has employees.

(5) "Invitee" means any business invitee, including a customer or visitor, who is lawfully on the premises of a public or private employer.

(6) "Locked inside or locked to" means

(A) The vehicle is locked; or

- (B)** The firearm is in a locked trunk, glove box, or other interior compartment, or
- (C)** The firearm is in a locked container securely fixed to the vehicle; or
- (D)** The firearm is secured and locked to the vehicle itself by the use of some form of attachment and lock.

**(b)** Notwithstanding the provisions of this article, any owner, lessee or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property may prohibit the carrying openly or concealing of any firearm or deadly weapon on property under his or her domain: Provided, That for purposes of this section “person” means an individual or any entity which may acquire title to real property: Provided, however, That for purposes of this section “natural person” means an individual human being.

**(c)** Any natural person carrying or possessing a firearm or other deadly weapon on the property of another who refuses to temporarily relinquish possession of the firearm or other deadly weapon, upon being requested to do so, or to leave the premises, while in possession of the firearm or other deadly weapon, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or confined in jail not more than six months, or both: Provided, That the provisions of this section do not apply to a natural person as set forth in §61-7-6(a)(5) through §61-7-6(a)(7) and §61-7-6(a)(9) through §61-7-6(a)(10) of this code while acting in his or her official capacity or to a natural person as set forth in §61-7-6(b)(1) through §61-7-6(b)(8) of this code, while acting in his or her official capacity: Provided, however, That under no circumstances, except as provided for by the provisions of §61-7-11a(b)(2)(A) through (I) of this code, may any natural person possess or carry or cause the possession or carrying of any firearm or other deadly weapon on the premises of any primary or secondary educational facility in this state unless the natural person is a law-enforcement officer or he or she has the express written permission of the county school superintendent.

**(d)** Prohibited acts. – Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section:

**(1)** No owner, lessee, or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property may prohibit any customer, employee, or invitee from possessing any legally owned firearm, when the firearm is

- (A)** Lawfully possessed;
- (B)** Out of view;
- (C)** Locked inside or locked to a motor vehicle in a parking lot; and
- (D)** When the customer, employee, or invitee is lawfully allowed to be present in that area.

**(2)** No owner, lessee, or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property may violate the privacy rights of a customer, employee, or invitee either

- (A)** By verbal or written inquiry, regarding the presence or absence of a firearm locked inside or locked to a motor vehicle in a parking lot; or
- (B)** By conducting an actual search of a motor vehicle in a parking lot to ascertain the presence of a firearm within the vehicle: Provided, That a search of a motor vehicle in a parking lot to ascertain the presence of a firearm within that motor vehicle may only be conducted by on-duty, law enforcement personnel, in accordance with statutory and constitutional protections.
- (C)** No owner, lessee, or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property may take any action against a customer, employee, or invitee based upon verbal or written statements of any party concerning possession of a firearm stored inside a motor vehicle in a parking lot for lawful purposes, except upon statements made pertaining to unlawful purposes or threats of unlawful actions involving a firearm made in violation of §61-6-24 of this code.

**(3)** No employer may condition employment upon either:

- (A)** The fact that an employee or prospective employee holds or does not hold a license issued pursuant to

§61-7-4 or §61-7-4a of this code; or

**(B)** An agreement with an employee or a prospective employee prohibiting that natural person from keeping a legal firearm locked inside or locked to a motor vehicle in a parking lot when the firearm is kept for lawful purposes.

**(4)** No owner, lessee, or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property may prohibit or attempt to prevent any customer, employee, or invitee from entering the parking lot of the person's place of business because the customer's, employee's, or invitee's motor vehicle contains a legal firearm being carried for lawful purposes that is out of view within the customer's, employee's, or invitee's motor vehicle.

**(e)** Limitations on duty of care; immunity from civil liability. —

**(1)** When subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, an employer, owner, lessee, or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property has no duty of care related to the acts prohibited under said subsection.

**(2)** An employer, owner, lessee, or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property is not liable in a civil action for money damages based upon any actions or inactions taken in compliance with subsection (d) of this section. The immunity provided in this subdivision does not extend to civil actions based on actions or inactions of employers, owners, lessees, or other persons charged with the care, custody, and control of real property unrelated to subsection (d) of this section.

**(3)** Nothing contained in this section may be interpreted to expand any existing duty or create any additional duty on the part of an employer, owner, lessee, or other person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property.

**(f)** Enforcement. – The Attorney General is authorized to enforce the provisions of subsection (d) of this section and may bring an action seeking either:

**(1)** Injunctive or other appropriate equitable relief to protect the exercise or enjoyment of the rights secured in subsection (d) of any customer, employee, or invitee;

**(2)** Civil penalties of no more than \$5,000 for each violation of subsection (d) and all costs and attorney's fees associated with bringing the action; or

**(3)** Both the equitable relief and civil penalties described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section, including costs and attorney's fees. This action must be brought in the name of the state and instituted in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County. The Attorney General may negotiate a settlement with any alleged violator in the course of his or her enforcement of subsection (d) of this section.

**(4)** Notwithstanding any other provision in this section to the contrary, the authority granted to the Attorney General in this subsection does not affect the right of a customer, employee, or invitee aggrieved under the authority of subsection (d) of this section to bring an action for violation of the rights protected under this section in his or her own name and instituted in the circuit court for the county where the alleged violator resides, has a principal place of business, or where the alleged violation occurred. In any successful action brought by a customer, employee, or invitee aggrieved under the authority of subsection (d) of this section, the court may award injunctive or other appropriate equitable relief and civil penalties as set forth in subdivisions one, two and three of this subsection. In any action brought by a customer, employee, or invitee aggrieved under the authority of subsection (d) of this section, the court shall award all court costs and attorney's fees to the prevailing party.

2018 Acts, ch. TBD (HB 4187), eff. 6/8/2018.

**Note:** [§61-7-11a](#) does not allow anyone without a permit WV issues or honors to have a loaded firearm in their vehicle in a K-12 parking lot. That law still applies even with the Parking Lot Storage Law as stated above.

## Do “No Gun Signs” Have the Force of Law?

**“NO”**

“No Firearm” signs in West Virginia have no force of law unless they are posted on property that is specifically mentioned in State Law as being off limits to those with a Permit/License to Carry. If you are in a place not specifically mentioned in the law that is posted and they ask you to leave, you must leave. If you refuse to leave then you are breaking the law and can be charged. Even if the property is not posted and you are asked to leave you must leave. Always be aware of the possibility that responding Police Officers who may have been called without your knowledge and may not know the laws on trespass etc. could arrest you even if you are within the law.

“Handgunlaw.us highly recommends that you not enter a place that is posted "No Firearms" no matter what the state laws read/mean on signage. We recommend you print out the [No Guns = No Money Cards](#) and give one to the owner of the establishment that has the signage." As responsible gun owners and upholders of the 2nd Amendment we should also honor the rights of property owners to control their own property even if we disagree with them.”

## Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

**“NO”**

West Virginia has no statute or Administrative Rule stating you must inform an officer you are carrying on any official contact. You must tell an officer if ask. Lying to a Police Officer is an offense in itself.

## Carry In State Parks//WMA/Road Side Rest Areas & St. /Nat. Forests

### Carry Allowed in these Areas:

**State Parks:** **YES** See [§20-2-5](#) **Concealed Only No uncased Long Guns unless Hunting.**

**State/National Forests:** **YES** Per WVDNR

**State WMA:** **YES** Per WVDNR

**Road Side Rest Areas:** **YES**

## RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License

### [§61-7-7](#). ... **Right of Nonprohibited Persons Over Twenty-One Years of Age to Carry Concealed Deadly Weapons ...**

(c) Any person may carry a concealed deadly weapon without a license therefor who is:

- (1) At least twenty-one years of age;
- (2) A United States citizen or legal resident thereof;
- (3) Not prohibited from possessing a firearm under the provisions of this section; and
- (4) Not prohibited from possessing a firearm under the provisions of 18 U. S. C. §922(g) or (n).

2016 Acts, ch. TBD (HB 4145), eff. 6/3/2016.

**§61-7-6. Exceptions as to Prohibitions Against Carrying Concealed Handguns for Persons at Least Eighteen Years of Age and Fewer Than Twenty-One Years of Age;**

(7) A member of the United States Armed Forces, Reserve or National Guard; 2016 Acts, ch. (HB 4145), 6/3/2016.

**Note:** Active members of the Military, Reserves or National Guard 18 and older can carry concealed with only their Military ID. All others carrying under Permitless Carry must be 21. You must have Photo/Military ID in your possession when Carrying.

**Loaded Long Guns in Vehicles/State Parks/St Forest Recreation Areas/Trails**

**§20-2-5. Unlawful Methods of Hunting and Fishing and Other Unlawful Acts; Sunday Hunting.**

(a) Except as authorized by the director or by law, it is unlawful at any time for any person to:

(9) Carry an uncased or loaded firearm in the woods of this state or in state parks, state forests, state wildlife management areas, or state rail trails with the following permissible exceptions:

(A) A person in possession of a valid license or permit during open firearms hunting season for wild animals and nonmigratory wild birds where hunting is lawful;

(B) A person hunting or taking unprotected species of wild animals, wild birds, and migratory wild birds during the open season, in the open fields, open water, and open marshes of the state where hunting is lawful;

(C) A person carrying a firearm pursuant to §20-2-6 of this code; (Own Property)

**(D) A person carrying a firearm for self-defense who is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law; or**

(E) A person carrying a rifle or shotgun for self-defense who is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law: **Provided, That this exception does not apply to an uncased rifle or shotgun carried specifically in state park or state forest recreational facilities and marked trails within state park or state forest borders;**

(17) Have a bow and gun, or have a gun and any arrow, in the fields or woods at the same time;

(18) Have a crossbow in the woods or fields, or use a crossbow to hunt, take, or attempt to take any wildlife except as otherwise provided in §20-2-5g and §20-2-42w of this code;

**Note:** [HB 4048](#) passed in 2022 has the preamble as below which amended §20-2-5 removing the prohibitions as listed below.

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the criminal prohibitions against carrying loaded long guns, nocked cross bows with a nocked bolt, or bows with a nocked arrow in a motor vehicle; and removing prohibitions against carrying long guns, cross bows, or bows, that are not in a case or taken apart, in motor vehicles during evening hours.

**Open Carry (Without a Valid Permit/License)**

Open Carry is legal. Places as listed in the “Places Off Limits” above apply to those who open carry. See the “RV/Car Carry Without a Permit/License” section for carrying in a vehicle. Also No Open Carry in State Parks.

The state preempts all firearm laws in the state but municipalities may enact and enforce an ordinance or ordinances that prohibit a person from carrying or possessing a firearm openly or that is not lawfully concealed in a municipally owned recreation facility. (See Preemption Section and Off Limits Section)



Remember that if you enter any property and the owner/responsible person ask you to leave you must leave. Failure to leave can result in Trespass Charges. The Minimum age for Open Carry is 18

Whenever pedestrian or vehicular traffic is prohibited in an area of a municipality for the purpose of a temporary event of limited duration, not to exceed fourteen days, which is authorized by a municipality, a municipality may prohibit persons who do not have a valid concealed handgun license from possessing a firearm in the area where the event is held;

In some states Open Carry is forbidden in places where those with a valid permit/license can carry. This is not the last word on Open Carry in this state. Check at [www.opencarry.org](http://www.opencarry.org) or go to Google and type in State Name Open Carry or Open Carry State Name for a search for open carry info in this state. Check with the [State's RKBA](#) Organization/s. Also see “Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases” Section for any written opinions/Cases on Open Carry.

**Note:** See Permitless Carry Section for information on carrying concealed without a permit/license.

## State Preemption

### **§8-12-5a. Limitations Upon Municipalities’ Power to Restrict the Purchase, Possession, Transfer, Ownership, Carrying, Transport, Sale, and Storage of Certain Weapons and Ammunition.**

(a) Neither a municipality nor the governing body of any municipality may, by ordinance or otherwise, limit the right of any person to purchase, possess, transfer, own, carry, transport, sell, or store any deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray, or any ammunition or ammunition components to be used therewith nor to so regulate the keeping of gunpowder so as to directly or indirectly prohibit the ownership of the ammunition in any manner inconsistent with or in conflict with state law.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

- (1) “Deadly weapon” has the meaning provided in [§61-7-2](#) of this code.
- (2) “Firearm” has the meaning provided in [§61-7-2](#) of this code.
- (3) “Municipally owned or operated building” means any building that is used for the business of the municipality, such as a courthouse, city hall, convention center, administrative building, or other similar municipal building used for a municipal purpose permitted by state law: *Provided*, That “municipally owned or operated building” does not include a building owned by a municipality that is leased to a private entity where the municipality primarily serves as a property owner receiving rental payments.
- (4) “Municipally owned recreation facility” means any municipal swimming pool, recreation center, sports facility, facility housing an after-school program, or other similar facility where children are regularly present.
- (5) “Pepper spray” means a temporarily disabling aerosol that is composed partly of capsicum oleoresin and causes irritation, blinding of the eyes, and inflammation of the nose, throat, and skin that is intended for self-defense use.

(c)(1) A municipality may enact and enforce an ordinance or ordinances that prohibit or regulate the carrying or possessing of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray in municipally owned or operated buildings.

\*\* (2) A municipality may enact and enforce an ordinance or ordinances that prohibit a person from carrying or possessing a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray **openly or that is not lawfully concealed** in municipally owned recreation facility: *Provided*, That a municipality may not prohibit a person with a

valid concealed handgun license from carrying an otherwise lawfully possessed firearm into a municipally owned recreation facility and securely storing the firearm out of view and access to others during their time at the municipally owned recreation facility.

- (3) A person may keep an otherwise lawfully possessed deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray in a motor vehicle in municipal public parking facilities if the vehicle is locked and the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray is out of view.
- (4) A municipality may not prohibit or regulate the carrying or possessing of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray on municipally owned or operated property other than municipally owned or operated buildings and municipally owned recreation facilities pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section: *Provided*, That a municipality may prohibit persons who do not have a valid concealed handgun license from carrying or possessing a firearm on municipally owned or operated property.

(d) It shall be an absolute defense to an action for an alleged violation of an ordinance authorized by this section prohibiting or regulating the possession of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray that the person:

- (1) Upon being requested to do so, left the premises with the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray or temporarily relinquished the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray in response to being informed that his or her possession of the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray was contrary to municipal ordinance; and
- (2) but for the municipal ordinance the person was lawfully in possession of the deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray.

(e) Any municipality that enacts an ordinance regulating or prohibiting the carrying or possessing of a deadly weapon, firearm, or pepper spray pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall prominently post a clear statement at each entrance to all applicable municipally owned or operated buildings or municipally owned recreation facilities setting forth the terms of the regulation or prohibition.

(f) Redress for an alleged violation of this section may be sought through the provisions of [§53-1-1](#) *et seq.* of this code, which may include the awarding of reasonable attorney's fees and costs, if the petitioner prevails.

(g) For the purposes of [§61-7-14](#) of this code, municipalities may not be considered a person charged with the care, custody, and control of real property.

(h) This section does not:

- (1) Authorize municipalities to restrict the carrying or possessing of deadly weapons, firearm, or pepper spray, which are otherwise lawfully possessed, on public streets and sidewalks of the municipality; or
- (2) Limit the authority of a municipality to restrict the commercial use of real estate in designated areas through planning or zoning ordinances.

2020 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 96), eff. 5/31/2020.

**\*\*** The Kanawha County Court has Ruled: Definition of the term "securely stored:" "... *as being on one's person and in a holster, purse, or bag so as long as the weapon remains attached to the individual, firmly adhered to one's body, and is not freely placed.*" You can read the ruling [Here](#).

**Note:** Open Carry/Concealed without a permit can be prohibited by a city on their property but must be posted.

## Deadly Force Laws

[§55-7-22](#). Civil relief for persons resisting certain criminal activities. (Castle Doctrine)

## Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click [“Here”](#)

## Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

**YES**

**Note:** A “YES” above means you can carry into places like described below. “NO” means you can’t. Handgunlaw.us definition of “Restaurant Carry” is carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol. Places like Friday’s or Red Lobster unless posted with “No Gun Signs.” This may or may not mean the bar or the bar area of a restaurant. But you can carry your firearm into a restaurant that serves alcohol and sit and eat without consuming. Handgunlaw.us recommends you not sit at the Bar or in the Bar area of such restaurants. In some states it is illegal to be in the Bar area of such restaurants. Handgunlaw.us believes you should never consume alcohol when carrying your firearm. In some states it is illegal to take even one drink while carrying a firearm. If you want further info on carrying in places that serve alcohol check your state laws.

## Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

### §61-7-2. Definitions

(9) “Pepper spray” means a temporarily disabling aerosol that is composed partly of **capsicum oleoresin** and causes irritation, blinding of the eyes, and inflammation of the nose, throat, and skin that is **intended for self-defense use**.

2020 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 46), eff. 5/11/2020.

**Note:** Per §61-7-2 (5/2020) Pepper Spray is no longer defined as a Deadly Weapon.

### §61-6-19. Willful Disruption of Governmental Processes; Offenses Occurring at State Capitol Complex; Penalties.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to bring upon the State Capitol Complex any weapon as defined in §61-7-2 of this code: Provided, That a person who may lawfully possess a firearm may keep a firearm in his or her motor vehicle upon the State Capitol Complex if the vehicle is locked and the weapon is out of normal view. *Provided, however,* That a person may not carry upon the State Capitol Complex, **a canister of pepper spray as defined in §61-7-2 of this code that exceeds one ounce.....** Violation is a misdemeanor.

2020 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 46), eff. 5/11/2020.

**Note:** [61-7-2](#) defines pepper spray as composed of capsicum oleoresin and is no longer a Deadly Weapon if carried by someone 16 years of age or older for defensive purposes. No statewide restrictions on the size you can carry but only a container of no more than 1 oz is allowed at the state capitol complex per [61-6-19](#). State Preemption laws now apply to Pepper Spray and there can be no local Ordinances more stringent than state law.

## LEOSA State Information

### [LEOSA Application For Retired Member Handgun Authorization \(From the WV State Police\)](#)

[§30-29-12](#) - WV Law Enforcement Agencies Must Supply Retirees Identification Upon Retirement

See the LEOSA Section on the [USA Page](#) at Handgunlaw.us for more LEOSA Information.

## Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

[West Virginia Supreme Court - Supreme Court decision, Defense of Others](#)

[WV Supreme Court – No Duty to Retreat in your Home](#)

[Kanawha County Court – City Parks and Recreation Area Carry](#) (9/17)

## Airport Carry/Misc. Information

**Airport Carry:** No laws found.

**Training Valid for:** No set time limit.

**Time Period to Establish Residency:** Upon obtaining a West Virginia Drivers License/ID

**Minimum Age for Permit/License:** 18

**Permit/License Info Public Information:** **NO** §29B-1-4. (20)

**State Reciprocity/How They Honor Other States Statute:** §61-7-6a.

**State Firearm Laws:** §61-7-1 thru §61-7-15

**State Deadly Force Laws:** §55-7-22.

**State Knife Laws:** §61-7-2

**Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws:** No laws found.

**Body Armor Laws:** §61-7-15.

**Does Your Permit/License Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms?** **NO**

**State Safe Storage/Access by Minors Statute/s:** No Statute Found

**Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal?** **YES** WV Dept of Nat Recourses General Regulations

## Notes

### What Does WV Consider A Loaded Firearm?

[§20-2-5. Unlawful Methods of Hunting and Fishing and Other Unlawful Acts.](#)

**What is Loaded.**

(a)(10) Possess a loaded rifle or shotgun, a bow with a nocked arrow, or crossbow with a nocked bolt, in or on any vehicle or conveyance, or its attachments. A rifle or shotgun with cartridges that have not been removed or a magazine that has not been detached is considered loaded. For the purposes of this section, a rifle or shotgun whose magazine readily detaches is considered unloaded if the magazine is detached and no cartridges remain in the rifle or shotgun itself; 2018 Acts, ch. TBD (SB 451), eff. 6/4/2018.

### State Emergency Powers

[§15-5-6. Emergency Powers of Governor.](#) (Edited for Space Considerations)

(a) The provisions of this section are operative only during the existence of a state of emergency or state of preparedness. The existence of a state of emergency or state of preparedness may be proclaimed by the Governor or by concurrent resolution of the Legislature if the Governor in the proclamation, or the Legislature in the resolution, finds that an attack upon the United States has occurred or is anticipated in the immediate future, or that a natural or man-made disaster of major proportions has actually occurred or is imminent within the state, or that an emergency exists or may be imminent due to a large-scale threat beyond local control, and that the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of this state require an invocation of the provisions of this section.

(b) Any state of emergency or state of preparedness, whether proclaimed by the Governor or by the Legislature, terminates upon the proclamation of the termination by the Governor, or the passage by the Legislature of a concurrent resolution terminating the state of emergency or state of preparedness: *Provided*, That in no case shall a state of preparedness last longer than thirty days.

(c) So long as a state of emergency or state of preparedness exists, the Governor has and may exercise the following additional emergency powers:

(1) To enforce all laws and rules relating to the provision of emergency services and to assume direct operational control of any or all emergency service forces and helpers in the state;

(2) To sell, lend, lease, give, transfer or deliver materials or perform functions relating to emergency services on terms and conditions he or she prescribes and without regard to the limitations of any existing law and to account to the State Treasurer for any funds received for the property;

(3) To procure materials and facilities for emergency services by purchase, condemnation under the provisions of chapter fifty-four of this code or seizure pending institution of condemnation proceedings within thirty days from the seizing thereof and to construct, lease, transport, store, maintain, renovate or distribute the materials and facilities. Compensation for property so procured shall be made in the manner provided in chapter fifty-four of this code;

(4) To obtain the services of necessary personnel, required during the emergency, and to compensate them for their services from his or her contingent funds or other funds available to him or her;

(5) To provide and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state and to take steps that are necessary for the receipt and care of the evacuees;

(6) To control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area or an area where large-scale threat exists, the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein;

(7) To suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders, rules of any state agency, if strict compliance therewith would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

(8) To use available resources of the state and of its political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with the emergency;

(9) To suspend or limit the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives and combustibles; (10) To make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing; and

(11) To perform and exercise other functions, powers and duties that are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population.

(d) The declaration of a state of preparedness has the same effect as a declaration of a state of emergency for the purposes of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact established in section twenty-two of this article and the Statewide Mutual Aid Systems set forth in section twenty-eight of this article.

(e) The powers granted under this section do not authorize any action that would violate the prohibitions of section nineteen-a of this article. (See 19a below)

2014 Acts, ch. TBD (HB 4147), eff. 3/8/2014.

**§15-5-19A. Possession Of Firearms During a Declared State of Emergency.** (Edited for Space



- (a) During a federal or state declared state of emergency, no state agency, county, or municipality, or any elected or appointed official or employee thereof, may:
- (1) Prohibit or restrict the otherwise lawful possession, use, carrying, transfer, transportation, storage, sale, display, or other lawful use of a firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or personal weapons other than firearms;
  - (2) Seize, confiscate, or authorize the seizure or confiscation of any otherwise lawfully possessed firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or otherwise lawful personal weapons other than firearms unless:
    - (A) The person acting on behalf of or under the authority of the state, a county, or municipality is:
      - (i) Defending himself or another from an assault; or,
      - (ii) Arresting a person in actual possession of a firearm or ammunition for a violation of the law; or
    - (B) The firearm or ammunition is being seized or confiscated as evidence of a crime;
  - (3) Requires registration of any firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or otherwise lawful personal weapons other than firearms;
  - (4) Suspend or revoke a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon or provisional license to carry a concealed deadly weapon issued pursuant to [§61-7-1](#) *et seq.* of this code except as expressly authorized in that article;
  - (5) Willfully refuse to accept an application for a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon or provisional license to carry a concealed deadly weapon, provided the application has been properly completed in accordance with [§61-7-1](#) *et seq.* of this code;
  - (6) Close or limit the operating hours of any entity engaged in the lawful selling or servicing of any firearm, including any component or accessory, ammunition, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or personal weapons other than firearms, unless the closing or limitation of hours applies generally within the jurisdiction of commerce;
  - (7) Close or limit the operating hours of any indoor or outdoor shooting range; or
  - (8) Place restrictions or quantity limitations on any entity regarding the lawful sale or servicing of any firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or personal weapons other than firearms.
- (b) The prohibitions of subdivision (1), subsection (a) of this section do not prohibit the state or an authorized state or local authority from ordering and enforcing an evacuation or general closure of businesses in the affected area during a declared state of emergency.
- (c) Any individual adversely affected by a violation of this section may seek relief in an action at law or in equity for redress against any state agency, county, municipality, or any elected or appointed official or employee of this state, a county, or municipality that subjects the individual, or causes the individual to be subjected, to an action prohibited by this section.
- (d) In addition to any other remedy at law or in equity, an individual adversely affected by the seizure or confiscation of any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or otherwise lawful personal weapons other than firearms in violation of this section may bring an action for the return of the seized or confiscated property in the circuit court of the county in which that individual resides or in which the seized or confiscated property is located.

(e) A prevailing plaintiff in an action under this section is entitled to recover the following:

- (1) Actual damages, including consequential damages;
- (2) Court costs and fees; and
- (3) Reasonable attorney's fees.

**Note:** Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See [US Code 42-5207](#) for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies. The state quoted code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

### Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

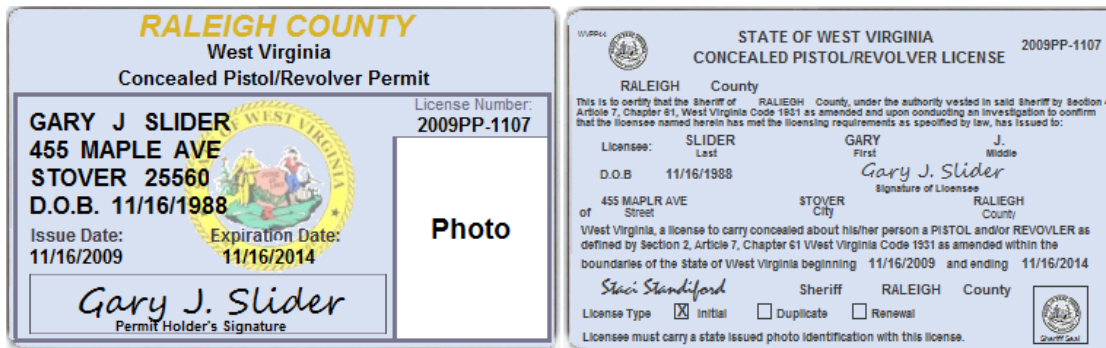
**West Virginia 18 Y/O**     [§61-7-8](#)

This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

**Note:** In some states Possession and Transportation CAN be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

This is not the last word on possession and transporting of handguns in this, or any other state. Study your state law further for more information. See "RV/Car Carry" Section Above for more information.

### Permit/License Image



This image has been digitally assembled. It may not be 100% accurate but gives a good representation of the actual Permit/License.

Do notice that it says Permit on the front and License on the back.

The Provisional Permit issued to those 18-20 will have the same format but have "Provisional" prominently displayed on the front.

### Updates to this Page

91 Links

[Archive of Previous Updates](#) 4

**Links Checked:** 1/1/2022

**7/1/2021** – Notice in Non-Resident Permit Section Updated. §15-5-19A Updated in Notes Section Under Emergency Powers Per SB 458. Iowa, Tennessee and Wyoming Added Under Map at Top of Page as Permitless Carry States.

**8/1/2021** – Map Updated to Show States That Only Honor the West Virginia Resident Permit.

**9/1/2021** – Texas Added Under Map as Permitless Carry State.

**9/15/2021** - Kansas Now Honors the West Virginia Provisional.

**10/15/2021** – All Quoted Statutes Checked for Accuracy With the 2021 Edition of Their Statutes.

**11/1/2021** - §61-7-4 In How to Apply Section Updated per [SB 3032](#).

**1/1/2022** - All Links Checked.

**3/10/2022** – All Links Checked.

**4/13/2022** – Georgia Added Under Map as a Permitless Carry State.

**5/24/2022** – RV/Car Carry Section Updated per [HB 4048](#).  
**6/13/2022** – Ohio Added Under Map as a Permitless Carry State.  
**7/1/2022** –Indiana Added Under Map as a Permitless Carry State.  
**8/4/2022** - All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.