

Handgun Purchase Permits

Permits to buy handguns in North Carolina can be obtained from the county sheriff (or, in some counties, the clerk of superior court). In Union County, it is the Sheriff's Office.

You must obtain a handgun purchase permit whether you purchase the weapon from a commercial dealer or a private individual. The requirement also applies whether it is a transaction for money, an exchange or a gift. Anytime the weapon changes hands, a permit is required.

You must have one permit for each handgun you are purchasing. Multiple long guns may also be purchased with a single handgun permit, however they must be purchased in a single transaction. Applicants may be issued up to four (4) handgun permits per application.

**** NOTE: Effective October 29, 2012 all handgun permit applications must be completed online. Paper applications will no longer be accepted after October 29, 2012.**

Handgun Purchase Permit Requirements:

Applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen, a naturalized citizen, or a resident alien
- Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age
- Have been a resident of Union County for at least 30 days
- Provide a valid N.C. driver's license or other picture ID issued by the State of North Carolina showing current Union County address

Additionally, applicants must:

- NOT have been convicted of a felony or currently under indictment for a felony
- NOT be a fugitive from justice
- NOT be an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, any depressant, stimulant or narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance
- NOT have been adjudicated incompetent on grounds of mental illness, nor have been committed to any mental institution
- NOT have been convicted of a domestic violence offense
- NOT be the subject of an active restraining order including a domestic violence protective order (50-B) that alleges any domestic violence or threat of domestic violence
- NOT have unresolved criminal charges pending
- NOT have a substantial history of criminal convictions, arrests or reports demonstrating a continuing pattern of criminal activity
- NOT have been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions
- NOT be an illegal alien or unlawfully residing in the United States
- NOT have renounced their United States citizenship

Handgun Purchase Permit Application Procedures:

1. Visit the Sheriff's Office website at www.ucso.us
2. Click on the "Gun Permits" link on the left side of the home page and follow the instructions to complete the online application and make payment for the handgun permit(s).
3. A criminal background check will be performed on all applicants. Most applications are processed within seven (7) days. However, N.C. state statute allows up to thirty (30) days for the processing of handgun permit applications.
4. If your application is approved, you will be notified by email to pick your permit(s) up at the Sheriff's Office **between the hours of 6am-8pm, Monday-Friday**. We will no longer return permits by mail. Please make sure that you bring valid NC issued photo identification.
5. The address on your driver's license or ID must match the address on your handgun permit. Therefore, if you have recently moved, you will need to get your driver's license or ID updated before picking up your handgun permit.
6. Please do not call the Sheriff's Office to check the status of your application. You will be notified by email if it is approved, denied or if additional information is needed to process your application. You can also sign in to your account through Permittium and check the progress of your application online.
7. Handgun permits are issued for the purchase of handguns only. It does not give you the right to carry the gun concealed. Carrying a concealed weapon without a valid Concealed Handgun Permit is against the law (G.S. 14-269).
8. Applications expire when permits are issued. A new application is required when applying for additional permits. Permits must be picked up within 60 days of issuance or they will be destroyed and you will need to reapply.
9. Handgun permits are valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance unless your address changes

If you have any additional questions, you may call the Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789.