



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
FRANKLIN SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

Dear Licensee:

Congratulations! You have been approved to receive a license to carry a firearm in Pennsylvania, hereafter referred to a LTCF. As Police Commissioner, I feel a duty to offer some words of caution and advice when carrying a firearm in public. Please remember that you must always practice the highest degree of care and safety when handling, carrying and storing any firearm. This is especially true when carrying a firearm in public. It is your responsibility to ensure accidents do not occur and that your firearm does not fall into the hands of a child or a criminal.

If you are unsure how to safely handle, carry or store a firearm, I strongly recommend you seek out and attend a firearm safety and responsibility course before handling and carrying any firearm.

For your convenience, as a new Firearm Licensee, I am also providing some important information that you should be aware of and always bear in mind.

1. **Encounters with Police**

For the safety of all persons, if you should come in contact with any Law Enforcement Officer, **I strongly recommend that you inform the Officer IMMEDIATELY if you are carrying a weapon.** While the law does not require you to do so, you must be aware that Officers are trained to look for the signs of weapons and your failure to immediately inform the Officer may unnecessarily escalate the encounter. So, please inform any Officer you may encounter that you are armed and have a valid LTCF and then follow the Officer's instructions. If you disagree with the actions of an officer during an encounter, you may speak to a supervisor after the incident or file a complaint. However, I strongly recommend that you do not argue or debate with the investigating officer. This behavior may be viewed as a refusal to comply during an investigation and may escalate the incident. Please remember, Philadelphia Police Officers are committed to protecting the Constitutional rights of all people, but an officer can not immediately tell if you are a law-abiding citizen or an armed criminal.

2. **Displaying or Openly Handling a Firearm**

While it may not be illegal, please be aware that any overt and unnecessary display or handling of a firearm in public places will alarm most people and they will call the police. These actions are unsafe and needlessly endanger public safety. It is your responsibility to handle a firearm in a proper manner. Failure to do so may result in serious injuries or death to yourself or others.

3. **Deadly Force**

The use of a firearm to defend yourself is considered deadly force. I strongly recommend that you fully know and understand the laws pertaining to use of deadly force prior to carrying any firearm in a public place. There are specific duties and responsibilities under state law and an improper or careless decision can expose you to criminal prosecution and/or civil liability. Specifically, you should be aware of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code sections 503, 505, 506 and 507.

4. **Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms**

When carrying a loaded firearm on your person or in a vehicle, you **MUST** also always have in your possession your original LTCF. You should be aware, upon lawful demand by any Law Enforcement Officer, you must be able to produce your LTCF for inspection. Failure to produce your license, when requested, is a violation of state law and the investigating Officer may legally presume that you do not possess a valid LTCF. This could result in you being arrested. So, please always carry your LTCF whenever you carry a loaded firearm or have a loaded firearm in a vehicle with you.

5. **Private Property and Other Restricted Location**

You must be aware that your LTCF is your authority to carry a firearm in public areas throughout the Commonwealth. However, there are places, even with a LTCF, that you may not carry a firearm, such as state/federal buildings, airports, court facilities and on certain school property. It is your responsibility to know the law. So, please take the time to study and know the laws to avoid any problems in the future. Also, if a private property owner does not want firearms on their property, they may not allow you to enter or may ask you to leave if they become aware you are carrying a firearm. This is well within their right. If you refuse to leave private property for any reason, after being placed on notice, you can be arrested. So, plan accordingly and please respect the rights of private property owners. If you disagree with the decisions of a certain property owner, your best course of action is simply to patronize another establishment.

6. **Firearm Retention**

Please be aware that all Law Enforcement Officers are trained in weapon retention to ensure criminals do not gain control of the officer's firearm. The mere presence of an Officer's firearm is not a deterrent to most criminals. As a citizen carrying a firearm, you should also be fully prepared to retain your firearm. Please do not fall into a false sense of security by carrying a firearm. Criminals will try to take your firearm if they can. I strongly suggest you undergo the proper training necessary to make sure this doesn't happen. Remember, it is your responsibility to retain your firearm from criminals. Your life and the life of your fellow citizens depend upon it.

7. **Firearm Storage – General Safety**

As a responsible gun owner, please remember that it is your responsibility to properly secure your firearms from children and criminals when not being carried. All firearms should be locked in a safe location, unloaded and out of reach of children or from easy theft. Ammunition should always be stored in a separate location.

Please take note, that any location that is easily accessible by other people, such as work or gym lockers, should **NOT** be considered a safe location to store a firearm. These areas are often targeted by criminals and far too many guns end up in the hands of criminals. Also, a locked car or trunk should never be considered a safe location to store a firearm. Many vehicles are stolen or broken into each year with guns stored inside. Most times, these guns are never recovered. So, please do not store any firearm in any unattended vehicle. As a gun owner, you should be aware that you can be held civilly liable for damages that occur from your firearm to another person if it is determined that you were grossly negligent in storing your firearm. So, please take the necessary steps to make certain all your firearms are properly stored.

8. **Travelling Out-of- State with a Firearm**

Your LTCF provides the authority to carry a firearm on your person or vehicle throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. However, some states will honor your Pennsylvania LTCF. The Attorney General of Pennsylvania is responsible for monitoring and approving any agreements with other States to honor a Pennsylvania LTCF. Prior to travelling outside of Pennsylvania with a firearm, **I strongly suggest you consult the Pennsylvania Attorney General's website to determine if the state you are planning to travel to or through honors a Pennsylvania LTCF**. The Philadelphia Police Department cannot provide legal advice, so you should be certain before you leave Pennsylvania that you are properly covered by the law. This is your responsibility, so please take the time to make sure where

you are going legally recognizes the Pennsylvania LTCF. If you are not careful, you could be arrested in another state for unlawful possession of a firearm. Information on Reciprocity Agreements with other states can be found on the Pennsylvania Attorney General's website - www.attorneygeneral.gov/Media_and_Resources/Firearm_Reciprocity_Agreements/

9. **Alcohol, Drugs and Guns**

Alcohol and drugs that could impair your judgment should not be mixed with firearms. This is general firearm safety, but is especially important when carrying a firearm. One bad judgment call with a firearm while under the influence of drugs or alcohol can result in death or serious injury to an innocent bystander and ruin your entire life. Carrying a firearm while intoxicated or under the influence of medication is negligent and simply a recipe for disaster. So, please plan ahead and consider safely storing your firearms if you plan to drink alcohol or take medicine that could affect your judgment. Remember, it's always better to be safe than sorry!

10. **Impersonating a Law Enforcement Officer**

Please take note, a LTCF does not give you any law enforcement powers or authority. Under no circumstances shall you present yourself or imply that you are an undercover Law Enforcement Officer. This is a crime and you will be prosecuted.

11. **Hunting and Fishing**

A LTCF does NOT exempt you from obtaining a Pennsylvania hunting and/or fishing license in order to engage in such activities.

12. **Protection from Abuse Orders**

Generally, once a final Protection from Abuse Order is issued against you or you become the subject of any active Protection from Abuse Order which provides for the relinquishment of firearms, other weapons or ammunition, you are prohibited under federal and state law from possessing any firearms or ammunition. As such, under Pennsylvania Law you are no longer eligible to possess a LTCF and should return your license to the Philadelphia Police Gun Permits Unit immediately. During this period, you should not carry any firearms. The state and federal laws surrounding firearms and Protection from Abuse Orders can be very complicated. It is always better to be safe than sorry. Should you become the subject of such an Order, I strongly advise you to seek the advice of a competent attorney to ensure you do not inadvertently violate state or federal law.

13. **Lost or Stolen Firearm Licenses**

In the event your LTCF card is lost or stolen, you should call the police and file a report immediately. To obtain a replacement card you must obtain a police report from the police district or town where you believe the license was lost or stolen. You will need the incident number from the police report to file a Lost/Stolen report with the Gun Permits Unit. Please note, until a replacement card can be issued, you should not carry any firearm. Remember, upon lawful demand of a Law Enforcement Officer you must produce your LTCF card. Failure to produce your License, when ordered, is a crime. So, if your LTCF card is lost or stolen, I strongly suggest you not carry a firearm until a replacement card can be issued. The fee for a replacement card is \$25.

NOTE: That if you find a previously lost license you should not rely on this license to carry a firearm. Once reported to the Police, your original LTCF card will no longer be valid. You should surrender this license to the Gun Permits Unit as soon as possible. Please remember, you must wait until a new LTCF card is issued before carrying a firearm.

14. **Address Updates**

The law does not require you to update your LTCF information when you move. The Gun Permits Unit will send an expiration notice to your last address on record with the Unit. Thus, it is in your best interest to always notify the Gun Permits Unit if and when you move. There is no charge to simply update your address information in your file. Please note that your actual LTCF card does not have to be updated when you move, but if you would like your updated address information on your LTCF card, a new card can be obtained for a fee of \$25. When notifying the Gun Permits Unit of your change of address, simply request a new card be issued and you will receive the proper instructions.

15. **Arrested or License Confiscated**

If you are ever arrested, indicted or have your LTCF seized by any Law Enforcement Officer, please notify the Gun Permits Unit as soon as possible.

16. **Revocation**

Please be advised that under Pennsylvania State law, as the issuing authority, that I may revoke a LTCF for good cause. While the state law does not definitively define “good cause,” should you demonstrate any act, behavior or course of conduct, whether armed or not, that could reasonably be inferred to jeopardize your own safety or that of others will be reviewed for possible revocation of your LTCF. While you have the right to appeal any revocation, as the issuing authority for the City of Philadelphia, I believe it is my duty to ensure only responsible individuals are issued a LTCF.

Once again, congratulations on receiving your new LTCF! Remember, safety should always come first, especially **when carrying a firearm in public. It is your responsibility to ensure accidents do not occur and that your firearm does not fall into the hands of a child or criminal, so always be safe. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to call the Gun Permits Unit for assistance at 215-685-3656.**

Police Commissioner
Philadelphia Police Department

UPDATES

DATE	SECTION #	UPDATE
11-27-18	5	Added: State/Federal Buildings and Airports to list of restricted location.
8-21-19	Signature	Updated with New Commissioner