

Frequently asked questions:

1. How do you obtain a Firearms Purchaser Identification Card and/or a Permit to Purchase a Handgun?

You must apply through your local police department. If you do not have a local police department you must apply through the New Jersey State Police station that covers your municipality. Out of State residents may only apply for a Firearms Purchaser Identification Card through the New Jersey State Police (excluding toll roads, stations on the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and Atlantic City Expressway).

To apply online utilizing the Firearms Applicant Registration System (FARS) please go to <https://www.njportal.com/NJSP/fars>. *You must contact the Police Department/Station that covers your residence to first obtain the proper ORI number before starting the application process. Improper submissions will not be refunded.

For any further information outlining specific requirements, contact your police department or nearest New Jersey State Police station.

2. How do you buy rifles and/or shotguns, including bb, pellet, and black powder rifles?

It is the responsibility of the seller of the rifles and/or shotguns, including bb, pellet, and black powder rifles to ascertain that the buyer has a valid Firearms Purchaser Identification Card plus one additional form of photo identification and completes a Certificate of Eligibility for each firearm. The information contained on the Firearms Purchaser Identification Card must match the identification of the transferor to be valid. A [Certificate of Eligibility](#) can be obtained at any licensed firearms dealer, or this web site.

*All firearms transactions must be completed at a State licensed retail firearms dealer with the exemption of transactions between a) members of an immediate family b) law enforcement officers c) collectors in possession of a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. (See N.J.S.A. 2C:58-3 for further information)

3. How do you buy handguns, including bb, pellet, and black powder handguns?

[Download Form](#)

A Permit to Purchase a Handgun must be completed for each handgun transferred in this state. It is the responsibility of the seller of the handgun to ascertain that the buyer has a valid Permit to Purchase a Handgun and one additional form of identification. The information on the Handgun Purchase Permit must match the identification of the transferor. (i.e, name address, DOB, sex, etc.) The permit must be completed by the seller and buyer. It is the responsibility of the seller to forward the copies to the appropriate authority. Instructions are printed on the permit. *All firearms transactions must be completed at a State licensed retail firearms dealer with the exemption of transactions between a) members of an immediate family b) law enforcement officers c) collectors in possession of a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. (See N.J.S.A. 2C:58-3 for further information)

4. When is fingerprinting required?

Individuals must be fingerprinted when applying for an initial Firearms Purchaser Identification Card or an initial Permit to Purchase a Handgun or for a change of sex on a Firearms Purchaser Identification Card.

An individual seeking a Permit to Carry a Handgun must be fingerprinted upon the initial application and each subsequent renewal.

A fee shall be paid directly to Identogo at the time you schedule your appointment for fingerprinting. The fee amount as well as additional information can be obtained from your local police department or nearest New Jersey State Police station at the time of application.

Police departments with questions concerning fingerprints or fees, please contact the **Criminal Information Unit at ext. 2991**.

5. How do you transport firearms?

Firearms shall be carried unloaded and contained in a closed and fastened case, gunbox, securely tied package, or locked in the trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported. If the vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the firearm and or ammunition shall be in a locked container other than the vehicle's glove compartment or center console and kept farthest from the driver.

As a precaution, ammunition shall be transported in a separate container and locked in the trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported. Ammunition magazines may remain loaded during transportation and shall be carried separate from the firearm.

6. Can I transport my firearm on a motorcycle to the range?

Yes. However please be aware that it must be carried in the same manner described above (See #6). A motorcycle with lockable bags is preferable however saddle bags or a back pack may be utilized with the unloaded firearm in a locked container.

7. How do you become a gunsmith, retail or wholesale firearms dealer, or get information on ammunition sales and/or gunsmithing?

[Download Form](#)

You must first obtain a letter from your local zoning official which states that firearm and/or ammunition sales are permitted from your location.

Once you receive this letter, send the original and a note requesting an application to the:

**New Jersey State Police
Firearms Investigation Unit
Post Office Box 7068
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628-0068**

You will then be sent an application package which should be completed in its entirety and forwarded to the Firearms Investigation Unit.

8. How do I apply for a permit to carry a handgun?

If you reside in New Jersey, you must apply with municipal police department where reside. If the municipality where you reside is serviced by the New Jersey State Police, you must apply at the station which covers your municipality. Out of state residents must apply to the New Jersey State Police station nearest to their geographic location. All armored car employees, regardless of residential location, must apply with the New Jersey State Police, at the nearest New Jersey State Police station (excluding toll roads, stations on the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and Atlantic City Expressway).

9. If I inherit a firearm what must I do?

Pursuant to **N.J.S.A. 2C:58-3j**, a firearm purchaser identification card and/or a handgun purchase permit shall not be required for the passing of a firearm upon the death of an owner thereof to his/her heir or legatee, whether the same by testamentary bequest or by the laws of intestacy. The firearm must be legal to possess in New Jersey and the person receiving the firearm shall not be prohibited by **N.J.S.A. 2C:58-3c** before receiving the firearm. If the heir or legatee does not qualify to acquire and possess the firearm, then ownership may be retained for a period not to exceed 180 days provided the firearm is transferred to the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or the superintendent during such period.

10. I have moved to New Jersey from another state. May I continue to possess my firearm(s)?

Yes, firearms which have been legally acquired in another state and are legal to possess in New Jersey may be brought to New Jersey by the owner when residency is established. The owner may VOLUNTARILY register the firearm(s) by completing a Voluntary Form of Firearms Registration, found on this website, however the owner is not obligated to do so.

11. Can I purchase a firearm directly from someone in another State?

No. It is a violation of Federal law for a resident of one state to receive a firearm of any kind from the resident of another state. In order for this transaction to be legal, it must go through a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL) in the State that the purchaser/receiver resides in. In New Jersey that means a firearm must be transported or shipped directly to the State licensed retail firearms dealer.

12. I'm not a police officer, are hollow points legal for me to possess?

Yes. They are legal for purchase and possess in your home or on land owned by you. They are legal to possess and use at a gun range. They are also legal to possess while traveling to and from such places. Ammunition lacking a hollow cavity at the tip, such as those with a polymer filling, are not considered to be hollow point ammunition. An example of this can be seen with the Hornady Critical Defense / Critical Duty, Cor-Bon PowRball / Glaser Safety Slug and Nosler Inc. Defense ammunition.

13. What is a "Large capacity ammunition magazine"?

A box, drum, tube or other container which is capable of holding more than **10** rounds of ammunition to be fed continuously and directly therefrom into a semi-automatic firearm. The term shall not include an attached tubular device which is capable of holding only .22 caliber rimfire ammunition. Qualified retired law enforcement officers that have registered a handgun(s) with the New Jersey State Police as part of the Retired Police Officers permit to carry program may possess a magazine with a capacity of up

to **15** rounds of ammunition for that specific registered handgun(s). Active duty law enforcement officers may possess magazines with a capacity of up to **17** rounds for personal firearms and over **17** rounds for any department issued firearm.

14. What type of firearms are considered assault weapons in New Jersey?

A complete list of banned firearms can be found in N.J.S. 2C:39-1.w as well as N.J.A.C. 13:54-1.2. If a firearm is not specifically listed by name then it may be considered to be substantially identical if it has the following qualities;

A **semi-automatic rifle** that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has at least **two** of the following:

- (1) A folding or telescoping stock;
- (2) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon;
- (3) A bayonet mount;
- (4) A flash suppressor or threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor; and
- (5) A grenade launcher;

A **semi-automatic pistol** that has an ability to accept a detachable magazine and has at least **two** of the following:

- (1) An ammunition magazine that attaches to the pistol outside of the pistol grip;
- (2) A threaded barrel capable of accepting a barrel extender, flash suppressor, forward handgrip, or silencer;
- (3) A shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the firearm with the non-trigger hand without being burned;
- (4) Manufactured weight of 50 ounces or more when the pistol is unloaded; and/or
- (5) A semi-automatic version of an automatic firearm; and

A **semi-automatic shotgun** that has **one** of the following:

- (1) A folding or telescoping stock;
- (2) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon;
- (3) A fixed magazine capacity in excess of six rounds;

A semiautomatic rifle with a fixed magazine capacity exceeding 10 rounds.

A firearm that meets the above criteria is considered to be "assault firearm" and may only be possessed by a licensed firearms dealer, active duty law enforcement officers and active duty military personnel.

"Assault firearm" shall **not** include a semi-automatic rifle which has an attached tubular device and which is capable of operating only with .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

15. I was given a pistol years ago from a family member or friend and I do not know if it was transferred properly. How do I get the firearm in my name legally?

To legally take possession of that firearm you must take it to a licensed retail firearm dealer in New Jersey and request that the firearm be transferred back to you after all proper State and Federal paperwork is completed and a National Instant Criminal Background Check has been completed by the

dealer. For a pistol you must first obtain a Pistol Purchase Permit (See #4). The pistol will now be registered in your name.

16. I have sold several firearms over the years and would like to know if they are still registered to me with the State.

Only handguns are required to be registered to you if purchased in State as a resident. Rifles/shotguns are not required to be registered. If you have sold that handgun to another resident of New Jersey, then the newly submitted Pistol Purchase Permit will update the States firearm database. However if you have sold that firearm to a gun dealer or out of State to a Federally Licensed Firearms dealer, it will remain registered to you. This database is only for criminal justice purposes and a copy of your firearms may not be provided to you.

17. Can I ship a firearm to anyone?

No. You may only ship a firearm to a Federally Licensed Firearms dealer (FFL) for sale or repair. First verify that the license is valid by obtaining their FFL license number and checking <https://fflezcheck.atf.gov/fflezcheck/>. Or search FFL ez Check and enter the appropriate information.

You may ship a firearm to yourself if you are going to another state where you have another residence. This package must only be addressed to you, the firearm owner.

18. I live in another State but also maintain a house in New Jersey, can I apply for a pistol permit or firearms purchaser card?

Yes. You can be considered a dual resident if you can show proof of residency here in New Jersey. Proof of residency can be established with a valid government issued identification showing your New Jersey residence or a government issued tax record or government issued utility bill (i.e. water bill from the town). The issuing police department will utilize your New Jersey address on your documents so you must retain your proof of residency to purchase a firearm.

19. I am in the military stationed in New Jersey however my residence/ driver's license is from another state, can I purchase a firearm in New Jersey?

Yes. You must have military orders showing that you are stationed in New Jersey and provide a copy of same with your Firearms Purchaser Identification Card and/or a Permit to Purchase a Handgun application at your local/state police department. You would be considered a dual resident and must provide that proof at the time of firearms purchase also.

20. I am an active duty law enforcement officer traveling to New Jersey for vacation, can I carry my firearm? Can I carry hollow point ammunition?

Yes. If you are Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA/HR218) compliant you may carry a concealed firearm in New Jersey. Please carry your law enforcement credentials and understand that you are restricted to 17 rounds of ammunition per magazine. If you are in New Jersey for official purposes and on duty with your department issued firearm, then there is no restriction. Hollow point ammunition is allowed for active duty Law Enforcement officers, whether on or off duty.

21. I have an old gun and want to get rid of it, what do I do?

You may contact your local police department for destruction. According to N.J.S. 2C:39-12 Voluntary Surrender, you may provide written notice including the proposed date and time of surrender to the superintendent or chief of police of municipality in which you reside prior to transporting same to that department. You may also contact a gun shop to inquire if they would like to purchase the firearm from you. They must provide you with a written receipt if they take the firearm.

22. I found a gun in the house/storage unit I purchased. What do I do? Can I keep it?

If you do not wish to keep the firearm follow the steps above (See #22). However if you decide to keep the firearm, provided it is New Jersey compliant (i.e. not an assault weapon), it may be kept, sold or destroyed according to N.J.S.A. 2A:18-72 Disposal of remaining personal property abandoned by tenant. To properly register a found pistol, the firearm should be turned over to a licensed gun dealer in New Jersey and you must obtain a Pistol Purchase Permit (See #2) which will be utilized to register the pistol in the state.

23. Are airsofts firearms?

No. They are considered to be toys in New Jersey. The plastic pellet ammunition utilized for an airsoft contain a hollow cavity which do not conform to a solid projectile.

24. Can I travel through New Jersey with my firearms?

Yes. With no unreasonable deviations from your travels you may drive through New Jersey with any type firearm or ammunition. If New Jersey is the State of destination, then the firearms must be legal in this State.

25. Are Tasers legal? Can I carry one?

Yes, an October 20, 2017 Memorandum from the State of New Jersey Office of Attorney General reviewed the findings of a Supreme Court decision and a Consent Order signed into effect by the State of New Jersey states that Stun Guns in New Jersey are **legal** for sale and possession with only two restrictions. You must be 18 years of age or older to purchase or possess and you must not be a certain persons prohibited against purchasing or possessing one as per N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7(a).