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## HOW TO GET WEAPON PERMITS

Iowa Code chapter 724 establishes a system of permitting for persons *in Iowa* to carry weapons and to acquire handguns. The primary responsibility for issuing most weapons permits in Iowa rests with county sheriffs. The responsibility for issuing those permits, which are not issued by a sheriff, resides with the Iowa Commissioner of Public Safety. Iowa Code chapter 724 should be read by all those interested in a permit to carry concealed weapons or purchase weapons.

### **Application procedures for a non-professional permit to carry a weapon:**

1. A resident of Iowa who wishes to obtain or renew a permit to carry a weapon shall apply to the sheriff in their county of residence.

The applicant must be 21 years of age and shall:

- a. Submit a fully and accurately completed application form;
- b. Submit a certificate of completion of an approved handgun training program which includes qualifying on a firing range. This training program is offered at Northwest Iowa Community College (NCC) in Sheldon, IA.; the applicant will have to contact NCC directly to sign up for the course. This requirement may be waived on an application for renewal of a permit;
- c. If so requested by the sheriff, submit two completed fingerprint cards;
- d. Meet all the applicable requirements enumerated in Iowa Code chapter 724;
- e. Comply with the applicable requirements of the United States Code, including 18 U.S.C. 921, et seq., also known as the Gun Control Act of 1968;
- f. Pay the required fee; \$10.00 for new and \$5.00 for renewals
- g. Display identification documentation for an Iowa resident as defined below. This requirement may be waived on an application for renewal of a permit.

The sheriff may use discretion in determining additional criteria for issuance of a permit. The sheriff may restrict or limit the authority granted by nonprofessional permits.

Prior to issuing a permit the sheriff shall conduct a background investigation which includes, at a minimum, a NICS check run through the IOWA system.

A nonresident of Iowa, or a state employee who is required by employment to go armed, who wishes to obtain a permit to carry a weapon shall apply to the commissioner.

**Firearm purchase or transfer—permit to acquire pistols or revolvers:**

The application for an annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers shall be made to the sheriff of the county of the applicant's residence. The applicant must be 21 years of age and shall:

- a. Submit a fully and accurately completed application form;
- b. If so requested by the sheriff, submit two completed fingerprint cards;
- c. Meet all of the applicable requirements of Iowa Code chapter 724;
- d. Comply with the applicable requirements of the United States Code, including 18 U.S.C. 921, et seq., also known as the Gun Control Act of 1968; and
- e. Display identification documentation for an Iowa resident as defined above.

Prior to issuing a permit the sheriff shall conduct a background investigation which includes, at a minimum, a NICS check run through the IOWA system.

An annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers shall be issued to the applicant immediately upon determination by the sheriff that the applicant complies with statutory requirements.

**Definitions. The following definitions apply to rules concerning weapons permits:**

"Applicant" means a person who is applying for a permit to acquire pistols or revolvers or to carry weapons.

"Approved handgun training program" means a handgun safety training program which includes qualifying on a firing range and which is offered or certified by one of the following organizations:

1. Iowa law enforcement academy.
2. National Rifle Association.
3. U.S. military or Iowa national guard.
4. Another organization approved by the commissioner.

"Certified peace officer" means a person who is certified by the Iowa law enforcement academy as having successfully completed a course of instruction for a peace officer that included a firearms training program and who is currently employed by an Iowa law enforcement agency which requires current certification.

"Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Iowa department of public safety or, as applicable, the commissioner's designee.

"Completed fingerprint card" means a standard fingerprint card with two sets (every existing finger and thumb) of fully rolled fingerprint impressions and all information required to check Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Iowa division of criminal investigation (DCI) records for any disqualifying criminal conviction.

**"Identification documentation for an Iowa resident" means any of the following:**

1. A driver's license or nonoperator identification card that contains a photograph of the person and that has been issued by the Iowa department of transportation; or

2. A motor vehicle license or nonoperator identification card that contains a photograph of the person and that has been issued by a state other than Iowa and at least one current document indicating Iowa residency including a residential lease agreement, utility bill, voter registration, tuition receipt for a college or university in Iowa, or other documentation that is acceptable to the issuing officer and that indicates the intent of the person's presence in Iowa is something other than merely transitory in nature; or
3. A document which contains the name, place of residence, date of birth and photograph of the holder issued by or under the authority of the United States, a state or a political subdivision of a state and which is of a type intended or commonly accepted for the purpose of identification of individuals and at least one current document indicating Iowa residency including a residential lease agreement, utility bill, voter registration, tuition receipt for a college or university in Iowa, or other documentation that is acceptable to the issuing officer and that indicates the intent of the person's presence in Iowa is something other than merely transitory in nature; or
4. A motor vehicle license or nonoperator identification card that contains a photograph of the person and that has been issued by a state other than Iowa and a document indicating that the person is a member of the United States armed forces on active duty and whose permanent duty station is located in Iowa; or
5. A driver's license or nonoperator identification card that contains a photograph of the person and that has been issued by the Iowa department of transportation and an immigration document containing the alien registration number (ARN) of a permanent resident alien or nonimmigrant alien and documentation indicating that the person has continuously resided in the state for at least 90 days prior to making application. A nonimmigrant alien shall also be required to display a valid hunting license issued in any state.

"Identification documentation for a nonresident" means a motor vehicle license or nonoperator identification card which has been issued by a state other than Iowa and which contains a photograph of the person to whom it was issued.

"IOWA system" means the Iowa on-line warrants and articles criminal justice information system operated by the Iowa department of public safety for use by law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in the exchange of criminal history and other criminal justice information.

"NICS" means the National Instant Criminal Background Check System established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of determining whether the transfer of a firearm to any person or the issuance of a firearms-related permit would be in violation of federal or state law. A NICS check shall include inquiries to the Iowa computerized criminal history database and the persons file of the Iowa on-line warrants and articles (IOWA) system.

"Qualify on a firing range" means to demonstrate proficiency with a handgun on a course of fire as part of an approved handgun training program.