

Straw Purchasers

A “straw purchaser” is a person who buys firearms on behalf of a convicted felon, juvenile or other prohibited purchaser.

In June of 2000, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms published a study of 1,530 firearms trafficking investigations during the period July 1996 through December 1998. That study, [*Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearm Traffickers*](#), found that straw purchasing was the most common channel in trafficking investigations. Straw purchases accounted for almost one-half of all investigations and were associated with nearly 26,000 illegal firearms. Straw purchasers typically included the traffickers’ friends, business associates (i.e., those paid to make the purchase), relatives, and spouses or girlfriends.

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