



Iowa

Summary of State Firearms Law

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Overview

In the publication *Gun Laws Matter: A Comparison of State Firearms Laws and Statistics*, LCAV ranked each state based on a review of state laws in 25 different firearms-related policy areas. Iowa ranked 13 out of 50 – having enacted a modest number of gun violence prevention laws. Among other things, Iowa:

- Requires an annual [permit to acquire](#) a handgun, involving a background check and a three-day [waiting period](#);
- Requires the surrender of firearms by persons convicted of misdemeanor [domestic violence](#) offenses, and by persons subject to domestic violence protective orders (pursuant to a [law enacted in 2010](#));
- Requires the [reporting of mentally ill individuals](#) who are prohibited from possessing firearms to the database used for background checks ([another 2010 law](#)); and
- Imposes [child access prevention](#) requirements upon gun owners.

Iowa does not, however:

- Require a person who is [purchasing a long gun from an unlicensed individual](#) to undergo a background check;
- Require [firearms dealers](#) to obtain a state license;
- Require the [registration of firearms](#);
- Limit the [number of firearms](#) that may be purchased at one time;
- Prohibit the possession and transfer of [assault weapons](#), [large capacity ammunition magazines](#) or [50 caliber rifles](#);
- Require firearm owners to [report the loss or theft](#) of a firearm; or
- Allow [local governments in the state to regulate](#) firearms.

In addition, pursuant to a [law enacted in 2010](#), Iowa no longer affords local law enforcement discretion in issuing [concealed carry permits](#).

Iowa Statistics

Gun Deaths in Iowa

Iowa has the eighth lowest number of gun deaths per capita among the states. In 2007, 157 people died from firearm-related injuries in Iowa.¹

Crime Guns in Iowa

Mayors Against Illegal Guns recently developed web pages detailing [data about each state's crime gun imports and exports](#). Compared with other states, in 2009, Iowa supplies less crime guns per capita than the national average. However, Iowa exports slightly more crime guns than it imports.²

Number of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in Iowa

There are 1,210 federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in Iowa.³

¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2007*, at http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_sy.html.

² For a more comprehensive discussion regarding the patterns of gun trafficking across the states, see Mayors Against Illegal Guns, *Trace the Guns: The Link Between Gun Laws and Interstate Gun Trafficking* (Sept. 2010), at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/report.pdf>.

³ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, *List of Federal Firearms Licensees* (Oct. 2011), at <http://www.atf.gov/about/foia/ffl-list.html>.

Iowa “Right to Bear Arms”

Iowa has no state constitutional, statutory, or common law right relating to the keeping or bearing of arms.

Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Iowa

Iowa broadly preempts local governments from adopting firearm-related ordinances. See the [Iowa State Preemption/Local Authority to Regulate Firearms summary](#) for further information.

State Firearms Policies

Please note that many firearm-related laws have exceptions for military and law enforcement personnel.

To view the sections of the Iowa Code provided in the text below, search for the citation using the [Iowa Code website](#).

Persons Prohibited from Firearm Possession

Iowa Prohibited Purchasers Generally

[Federal law prohibits certain persons from purchasing or possessing firearms](#), such as felons, certain domestic abusers, and certain people with a history of mental illness.

Iowa prohibits any person from knowingly possessing or controlling, receiving, or transporting, or causing to be transported, a firearm if he or she has been convicted of a felony in a state or federal court or adjudicated delinquent on the basis of conduct that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult.⁴

Iowa incorporates the federal laws prohibiting the possession of firearms or ammunition by anyone subject to a domestic violence protective order or anyone convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.⁵

Any person seeking to acquire ownership of a handgun in Iowa must possess a valid annual permit to acquire handguns.⁶ A permit may not be issued to a person who:

- Is under age 21;
- Is subject to the firearm possession, receipt, transportation or control prohibitions of Iowa law; or
- Is prohibited by federal law from shipping, transporting, possessing or receiving a firearm.⁷

⁴ Iowa Code § 724.26(1).

⁵ Iowa Code §§ 236.2(2), (4), 236.5(1)(b), 724.26(2).

⁶ Iowa Code § 724.15(1).

⁷ *Id.* Application requirements for an annual permit to acquire handguns are detailed under Iowa Code §§ 724.17, 724.18, and 724.19. If the issuing officer determines that the applicant has become disqualified from purchasing or possessing a handgun, the officer may immediately invalidate the permit. Iowa Code § 724.15(3).

The annual permit to acquire handguns requirement does not apply to any person possessing a valid state permit to carry firearms.⁸ Iowa law governing the process to obtain professional and nonprofessional permits to carry weapons also prohibits specified classes from obtaining these permits.⁹ See the [Iowa Concealed Weapons Permitting](#) section.

For information on the background check process used to enforce these provisions, see the [Iowa Background Checks](#) section.

For information about the reporting of mental health information for use in firearm purchaser background checks, see the [Iowa Mental Health Reporting](#) section.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Prohibited Purchasers](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

⁸ Iowa Code § 724.15(2)(d).

⁹ Iowa Code §§ 724.6, 724.7.

Minimum Age to Purchase or Possess Firearm in Iowa

Generally, a person must be 18 years of age to possess a rifle or shotgun or ammunition for those firearms, and age 21 to possess a handgun and handgun ammunition.¹⁰ A parent, guardian, spouse age 18 or older, or another with the express consent of the minor's parent or guardian or spouse who is at least age 18 may allow a minor to possess a rifle or shotgun and ammunition for lawful use.¹¹

A parent or guardian or spouse who is age 21 or older, of a person between the ages of 14 and 21 may allow the minor to possess a handgun or handgun ammunition for any lawful purpose while under the direct supervision of the parent, guardian or spouse, or while the person receives instruction in the proper use of a handgun from an instructor age 21 or older, with the consent of the parent, guardian or spouse.¹²

[Federal law](#) imposes additional limits.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Minimum Age to Purchase / Possess Firearms](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

¹⁰ Iowa Code § 724.22(1), (2).

¹¹ Iowa Code § 724.22(1), (3).

¹² Iowa Code § 724.22(5).

Iowa Domestic Violence and Firearms

Firearm Prohibitions for Domestic Violence Misdemeanants and Protective Order Defendants

In 2010, Iowa enacted a strong [law addressing firearms in domestic violence](#) situations. Like [federal law](#), Iowa now generally prohibits any person from knowingly possessing, shipping, transporting, or receiving a firearm or ammunition if he or she has been convicted of a “misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.”¹³ This prohibition also applies to anyone subject to a domestic violence protective order.¹⁴

A court hearing a proceeding for domestic abuse may enter any temporary ex parte order it deems necessary to protect a plaintiff from domestic abuse prior to a full hearing.¹⁵ A temporary order must specifically include notice that the person may be required to relinquish all firearms and ammunition upon the issuance of a permanent order.¹⁶ Upon a finding that a defendant has engaged in domestic abuse, the court may grant a protective order or approve a consent agreement that may contain provisions prohibiting the defendant from knowingly possessing, shipping, transporting or receiving firearms and ammunition.¹⁷

In Iowa, upon a conviction for domestic violence or issuance of a protective order, the court must inform the person who is the subject of the order or conviction that the person shall not possess, ship, transport, or receive a firearm, offensive weapon, or ammunition while the order is in effect or until the conviction is vacated or until the person’s rights have been restored under state law.¹⁸

Surrender of Firearms upon a Domestic Violence Conviction or When a Domestic Violence Protective Order Is Issued

A state court that enters a judgment of conviction for a domestic violence misdemeanor or issues a domestic violence protective order and finds that the subject of the order or conviction is in possession of any firearm or ammunition must order the firearm or ammunition to be sold or transferred by a specific date to the custody of a qualified person in this state, as determined by the court.¹⁹ If the court is unable to identify a qualified person to receive the firearm or ammunition, the court must order that the firearm or ammunition be transferred by a specific date

¹³ Iowa Code § 724.26(2)(a). “Misdemeanor crime of domestic violence” means an assault under Iowa Code § 708.1, subsection 1 or 3, committed by a current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian, or by a person similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim. Iowa Code § 724.26(2)(c).

¹⁴ Iowa Code § 724.26(2)(a). These prohibitions do not apply to the possession, shipment, transportation, or receipt of a firearm or ammunition issued by a state department or agency or political subdivision for use in the performance of the official duties of the person who is the subject of a protective order. Iowa Code § 724.26(2)(b).

¹⁵ Iowa Code §§ 236.4, 236.2(2).

¹⁶ Iowa Code § 236.4(2).

¹⁷ Iowa Code §§ 236.5(1)(b), 236.2(2).

¹⁸ Iowa Code § 724.26(3).

¹⁹ Iowa Code § 724.26(4).

to the county sheriff or a local law enforcement agency designated by the court for safekeeping until a qualified person is identified to receive the firearm or ammunition, until the order is no longer in effect, until the conviction is vacated, or until the person's rights have been restored. If the firearm or ammunition is to be transferred to the sheriff's office or a local law enforcement agency, the court must assess the person the reasonable cost of storing the firearm or ammunition, payable to the county sheriff or the local law enforcement agency.²⁰

Protective Order Reporting and Expiration Procedures

A court issuing a domestic violence protective order is required to enter the name, address, date of birth, driver's license number and other identifying information of the person subject to the order into the Iowa criminal justice information system, the reason for the order, and the date by which the person is required to comply with any relinquishment order.²¹ At the time the order is no longer in effect, information relating to the prohibition must be deleted from the Iowa criminal justice information system.²² If a firearm or ammunition has been transferred to a qualified person, and the protective order is no longer in effect, the firearm or ammunition must be returned to the person who was subject to the protective order within five days of that person's request to have the firearm or ammunition returned.²³

For general information on the background check process and categories of prohibited purchasers or possessors, see the [Iowa Background Checks](#) and [Iowa Prohibited Purchasers Generally](#) sections.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Domestic Violence and Firearms](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ Iowa Code § 724.26(5).

²² *Id.*

²³ Iowa Code § 724.26(6).

Disarming Prohibited Persons in Iowa

Under [a law enacted in 2010](#), an Iowa state court that enters a judgment of conviction for a domestic violence misdemeanor or issues a domestic violence protective order and finds that the subject of the order or conviction is in possession of any firearm or ammunition must order the person to surrender the firearm or ammunition. For more information on the surrender of firearms by domestic violence abusers, see the [Iowa Domestic Violence & Firearms](#) section. Iowa has no similar law requiring the surrender of firearms by convicted felons or other [individuals prohibited from possessing firearms](#).

Sales & Transfers

Background Checks in Iowa

[Federal law requires federally licensed firearms dealers \(but not private sellers\) to initiate a background check on the purchaser prior to sale of a firearm.](#) Federal law provides states with the option of serving as a state “point of contact” and conducting their own background checks using state, as well as federal, records and databases, or having the checks performed by the FBI using only the [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(“NICS”\) database](#). (Note that state files are not always included in the federal database.)

Iowa is a partial point of contact state for NICS. The county sheriffs and the Iowa Department of Public Safety (IDPS) serve as partial state points of contact for background checks on prospective handgun purchasers, with county sheriffs conducting checks on applicants for annual [permits to acquire a handgun](#) or [permits to carry concealed handgun](#), and the IDPS conducting handgun-related checks for state employees and non-residents.²⁴ The FBI performs NICS checks for long gun purchases to enforce the federal purchaser prohibitions referenced above.²⁵

For information about persons prohibited by federal or state law from possessing or purchasing a firearm, see the [Iowa Prohibited Purchasers Generally](#) section.

Under federal law, persons who have been issued state permits to purchase or possess firearms are exempt from background checks if those permits were issued: 1) within the previous five years in the state in which the transfer is to take place; and 2) after an authorized government official has conducted a background investigation, including a search of the NICS database, to verify that possession of a firearm would not be unlawful.²⁶ Holders of both permits to acquire a handgun and permits to carry concealed weapons in Iowa are exempt from background checks when purchasing a firearm, according to the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives \(ATF\) chart](#) that outlines those permits that qualify as alternatives to the [Brady Act](#). Please note that ATF’s exempt status determination is subject to change without notice.

For information about the reporting of mental health information for use in firearm purchaser background checks, see the [Iowa Mental Health Reporting](#) section.

²⁴ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *National Instant Criminal Background Check System Participation Map*, at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/general-information/participation-map> (last visited Oct. 26, 2011).

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ [18 U.S.C. § 922\(t\)\(3\)](#), [27 C.F.R. § 478.102\(d\)](#).

A private (*i.e.* unlicensed) seller and a purchaser involved in a handgun sales transaction must both possess a valid annual permit to acquire handguns, subjecting both parties to background checks. Long-gun transfers by private sellers are not subject to background checks in Iowa, although federal and state purchaser prohibitions still apply. See the [Iowa Private Sales](#) section.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Background Checks](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Mental Health Reporting in Iowa

Federal law prohibits any person from selling or otherwise transferring a firearm or ammunition to any person who has been “adjudicated as a mental defective” or involuntarily “committed to any mental institution.”²⁷ No federal law requires states to report the identities of these individuals to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) database, however, which the FBI uses to perform background checks prior to firearm transfers.

In 2010 (as part of [the law removing law enforcement discretion](#) regarding the issuing of concealed weapons permits), Iowa began requiring that certain court orders related to mental health be forwarded to NICS. The law governs certain orders of commitment to mental health facilities and orders finding a defendant incompetent to stand trial. In these cases, the clerk of the district court is required to forward information necessary to identify a person who is the subject to such an order to the Iowa Department of Public Safety, which in turn must forward the information to the FBI for the sole purpose of inclusion in the NICS database.²⁸ The law also provides a procedure for a person who has been released from commitment to petition for relief from the federal firearms disability.²⁹

In addition, the warden of the Iowa Medical and Classification Center must forward to the Iowa Department of Public Safety fingerprint records and photographs of persons committed to that institution.³⁰

For general information on the background check process and categories of prohibited purchasers or possessors, see the [Iowa Background Checks](#) and [Iowa Prohibited Purchasers Generally](#) sections.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Mental Health Reporting](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

²⁷ [18 U.S.C. § 922\(d\)\(4\)](#).

²⁸ Iowa Code § 724.31(1)-(2).

²⁹ Iowa Code § 724.31(3).

³⁰ Iowa Code § 690.4.

Multiple Purchases / Sales of Firearms in Iowa

Iowa has no laws regulating the sale or purchase of multiple guns.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Restrictions on Multiple Purchases or Sales of Firearms](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Retention of Sales / Background Check Records in Iowa

Iowa has no laws regulating retention of gun sales or background check records.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Retention of Firearm Sales and Background Check Records](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Iowa Waiting Periods

In Iowa, no handgun may be transferred until the transferee obtains an annual permit to acquire a handgun, which becomes valid three days after the date of application.³¹ After the permit is issued, the holder may purchase additional handguns without a waiting period for the duration of the permit.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Waiting Periods](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

³¹ Iowa Code § 724.20.

Gun Dealers & Other Sellers

Iowa Dealer Regulations

Iowa does not require firearms dealers to obtain a state license. However, firearms dealers are subject to state laws governing gun sales generally. See the [Iowa Private Sales](#) section for further information. Pursuant to the [Brady Act](#), federally licensed firearms dealers must conduct background checks on prospective purchasers each time the dealer transfers a firearm. See the [Iowa Background Checks](#) section.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Dealer Regulations](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Private Sales in Iowa

Subject to limited exceptions, any person seeking to purchase a handgun in Iowa must possess an annual permit to acquire a handgun, requiring a background check.³² Any person acquiring a handgun without possessing a valid annual permit is criminally liable for an aggravated misdemeanor.³³ Iowa also prohibits any person from transferring a handgun to a person who does not possess a valid annual permit to acquire a handgun, and from transferring a handgun to a person the transferor knows is prohibited by Iowa's permitting requirements from acquiring ownership of a handgun.³⁴

Iowa prohibits any person from knowingly transferring or acquiring possession, or who facilitates the transfer, of a stolen firearm.³⁵

Generally, Iowa prohibits any person from selling, loaning, giving or making available a rifle or shotgun or ammunition for a rifle or shotgun to a minor (person under age 18).³⁶ Moreover, Iowa prohibits any person from selling, loaning, giving or making available a handgun or handgun ammunition to a person under age 21.³⁷

Private transfers of long guns (*i.e.*, transfers by non-firearms dealers) are not subject to a background check requirement in Iowa, although federal and state purchaser prohibitions still apply. See the [Iowa Background Checks](#) section.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Private Sales](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

³² Iowa Code § 724.15(1).

³³ Iowa Code § 724.16(1).

³⁴ Iowa Code § 724.16.

³⁵ Iowa Code § 724.16A.

³⁶ Iowa Code § 724.22(1).

³⁷ Iowa Code § 724.22(2).

Iowa Gun Shows

Iowa law does not specifically regulate gun shows. Anyone seeking to purchase a handgun at a gun show or any other location, however, must possess an annual permit to acquire these firearms.³⁸ A background check is required for issuance of a permit.

Iowa prohibits any person from acquiring a handgun without possessing a valid annual permit to acquire a handgun, and from transferring ownership of a handgun to a person who does not possess a valid annual permit.³⁹

See the [Iowa Private Sales](#) section for state laws that may apply at gun shows.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Gun Shows](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

³⁸ See Iowa Code § 724.15(1).

³⁹ Iowa Code § 724.16.

Iowa Immunity Statutes

Iowa does not immunize the firearms industry.

For detailed information about government and private party lawsuits against the gun industry, the status of litigation involving gun industry immunity statutes in various states, or pending gun industry immunity legislation, visit the [Brady Center's Legal Action Project](#) and the [Coalition to Stop Gun Violence's Gun Industry Immunity page](#).

See [LCAV's policy page on Immunity Statutes / Manufacturer Litigation](#) for further information.

Gun Owner Responsibilities

Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers in Iowa

Any person seeking to acquire ownership of a handgun in Iowa must possess a valid annual permit.⁴⁰ See the [Iowa Prohibited Purchasers Generally](#) section for further information.

The permit to acquire a handgun qualifies as exempt from the requirements of the [Brady Act](#). Under federal law, persons who have been issued state permits to purchase or possess firearms are exempt from background checks if those permits were issued: 1) within the previous five years in the state in which the transfer is to take place; and 2) after an authorized government official has conducted a background investigation, including a search of the NICS database, to verify that possession of a firearm would not be unlawful.⁴¹ Consult the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives \(ATF\) chart](#) outlining those permits that qualify as alternatives to the Brady Act. Please note that ATF's exempt status determination is subject to change without notice. For further information, see the [Iowa Background Checks](#) section.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

⁴⁰ Iowa Code § 724.15. Application requirements for an annual permit to acquire handguns are detailed in sections 724.17, 724.18, and 724.19. If the issuing officer determines that the applicant has become disqualified under the provisions of section 724.15(1), he or she may immediately invalidate the permit. Section 724.15(3).

⁴¹ [18 U.S.C. § 922\(t\)\(3\)](#), [27 C.F.R. § 478.102\(d\)](#).

Iowa Registration of Firearms

Iowa does not require firearm owners to register their guns.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Registration of Firearms](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms in Iowa

Iowa does not require gun owners to report the loss or theft of their firearms.

See [*Regulating Guns in America: Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Firearms in Public Places

Concealed Weapons Permitting in Iowa

See [Regulating Guns in America: Carrying Concealed Weapons](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Iowa allows a person to carry a concealed firearm within city limits if the person has a concealed weapons permit.⁴² Iowa is a “shall issue” state, meaning that law enforcement must issue a concealed weapons permit to an applicant that is not prohibited under state criteria from obtaining a permit. In Iowa, any person not disqualified under the state eligibility requirements discussed below and who satisfies state training requirements shall be issued a “nonprofessional” permit to carry weapons.⁴³ “Professional” permits are issued for persons employed in the following professions, if the person’s position in that profession reasonably justifies that person going armed: 1) private investigation business or private security business licensed under Iowa Code, Chapter 80A; 2) peace officer; 3) correctional officer; 4) security guard; 5) bank messenger; 6) person transporting property of a value requiring security; or 7) police work.⁴⁴

No person will be issued a professional or nonprofessional permit to carry weapons if the person:

- Is less than age 18 for a professional permit or less than age 21 for a nonprofessional permit;
- Is addicted to the use of alcohol;
- Probable cause exists to believe, based upon documented specific actions of the person, where at least one of the actions occurred within two years immediately preceding the date of the permit application, that the person is likely to use a weapon unlawfully or in such other manner as would endanger himself or herself or another person;
- Is subject to the firearm possession, receipt, transportation or control prohibitions of Iowa Code § 724.26; and
- Has, within the previous three years, been convicted of any serious or aggravated misdemeanor defined in Iowa Code Chapter 708 not involving the use of a firearm or explosive; or

⁴² Iowa Code § 724.4(1), (4)(i). No permit is required to carry a concealed firearm outside city limits. *Id.*

⁴³ Iowa Code § 724.7(1).

⁴⁴ Iowa Code § 724.6(1).

- Is prohibited by federal law from shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving a firearm.⁴⁵

Firearm Safety Training

All applicants for a nonprofessional permit to carry firearms must satisfy state training requirements.⁴⁶ Applicants may demonstrate knowledge of firearm safety by any of the following:

- Completion of any National Rifle Association handgun safety training course;
- Completion of any handgun safety training course available to the general public offered by a law enforcement agency, community college, college, private or public institution or organization, or firearms training school, utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the Iowa Department of Public Safety or another state's department of public safety, state police department, or similar certifying body;
- Completion of any handgun safety training course offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of a law enforcement or security enforcement agency approved by the department of public safety;
- Completion of small arms training while serving with the armed forces of the United States as evidenced by any of the following:
 - For personnel released or retired from active duty, possession of an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions; or
 - For personnel on active duty or serving in one of the national guard or reserve components of the armed forces of the United States, possession of a certificate of completion of basic training with a service record of successful completion of small arms training and qualification; or
- Completion of a law enforcement agency firearms training course that qualifies a peace officer to carry a firearm in the normal course of the peace officer's duties.⁴⁷

Satisfactory completion of safety training may be documented by:

- A photocopy of a certificate of completion or any similar document indicating completion of any course or class identified in the aforementioned list;

⁴⁵ Iowa Code § 724.8. Application requirements and the background check process are detailed under Iowa Code §§ 724.10 and 724.11. Permit suspension and revocation provisions are outlined under Iowa Code § 724.13 and § 724.21A. Additional information on the prohibited categories and applicant procedures for a permit is described under Iowa Admin. Code r. 661-91.4 and 661-91.3.

⁴⁶ Iowa Code § 724.7(1).

⁴⁷ Iowa Code § 724.9(1).

- An affidavit from the instructor, school, organization, or group that conducted or taught a course or class attesting to the completion of the course or class by the applicant; or
- A copy of any document indicating participation in any firearms shooting competition.⁴⁸

For permit renewals, the training program requirements apply, or the renewal applicant may choose to qualify on a firing range under the supervision of an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or the Department of Public Safety or another state's department of public safety, state police department, or similar certifying body.⁴⁹ This training or qualification must occur within the 12-month period prior to the expiration of the applicant's current permit.⁵⁰

Duration & Renewal

A nonprofessional permit shall be valid for five years.⁵¹

Disclosure or Use of Information

Iowa does not have any specific requirements regarding the disclosure or use of the information gathered from concealed weapons permit holders or applicants for a concealed weapons permit. Iowa's Commissioner of Public Safety maintains a permanent record of all valid permits to carry weapons and of current permit revocations.⁵²

Reciprocity

Iowa does not recognize concealed weapons permits from other states. Non-residents of Iowa must apply to the state commissioner of public safety for permits to carry weapons while in Iowa.⁵³

Brady Exemption

Concealed weapons permit holders in Iowa are exempt from background checks when purchasing a firearm, according to the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives \(ATF\) chart](#) that outlines those permits that qualify as alternatives to the [Brady Act](#). Please note that ATF's exempt status determination is subject to change without notice. For further information, see the [Iowa Background Checks](#) section.

⁴⁸ Iowa Code § 724.9(2).

⁴⁹ Iowa Code § 724.11(1).

⁵⁰ *Id.* See also Iowa Admin. Code r. 661-91.1.

⁵¹ Iowa Code § 724.7.

⁵² Iowa Code § 724.23.

⁵³ Iowa Code § 724.11(1).

Open Carrying in Iowa

Iowa generally allows the [open carrying](#) of a handgun with a valid state [license](#).⁵⁴ No license is required if the person remains outside city limits.⁵⁵

Iowa allows the open carrying of long guns if:

- The guns are unloaded;
- The person remains outside city limits; or
- The person has a valid state license.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Iowa Code § 724.4(1), 724.4(4)(i).

⁵⁵ Iowa Code § 724.4(1).

⁵⁶ Iowa Code § 724.4(1).

Location Restrictions

Guns in Vehicles in Iowa

Iowa prohibits any person from knowingly carrying or transporting a handgun in a vehicle.⁵⁷ This prohibition does not apply if the person transports an unloaded handgun inside a closed and fastened container or other secure package that cannot be concealed on the person, or in a cargo or luggage compartment where the handgun cannot be readily accessible to any person in the vehicle or common carrier.⁵⁸ This prohibition also does not apply to a person with a valid permit to carry, provided his or her conduct is within the limits of that permit.⁵⁹

Iowa generally prohibits the possession or carrying of a gun in or on a vehicle on a public highway, unless the firearm is taken down or totally contained in a securely fastened case, and its barrels and attached magazines are unloaded.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Iowa Code § 724.4(1).

⁵⁸ Iowa Code § 724.4(4)(f).

⁵⁹ Iowa Code § 724.4(1), (4)(i).

⁶⁰ Iowa Code § 483A.36.

Guns in Schools in Iowa

Iowa prohibits any person from carrying, going armed with or transporting any firearm, whether concealed or not, on the grounds of a public or non-public school.⁶¹

This prohibition does not apply to any person: 1) specifically authorized by the school to carry, go armed or transport a firearm on the school grounds, including for purposes of conducting an instructional program regarding firearms;⁶² or 2) among others, who for any lawful purpose carries an unloaded handgun or other dangerous weapon inside a closed and fastened container or securely wrapped package which is too large to be concealed on the person.⁶³

In Iowa, the board of directors of a school district and the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school which receives services supported by federal funds shall expel from school for a period of not less than one year a student determined to have brought a firearm to school or knowingly possessed a firearm at school.⁶⁴ The superintendent or chief administering officer of a school or school district may modify expulsion requirements on a case-by-case basis.

The board of directors of a school district or the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school may provide educational services to the student in an alternative setting.⁶⁵

The board of directors of a public school and the authorities in control of a nonpublic school shall prescribe procedures for continued school involvement with a student who is suspended or expelled for possession of a firearm on school premises, and for the reintegration of the student into the school following the suspension or expulsion.⁶⁶

Iowa has no law prohibiting firearms at private colleges or universities.⁶⁷

See [LCAV's policy page on Guns in Schools](#) for further information.

⁶¹ Iowa Code § 724.4B(1). "School" means a public or non-public school, as defined under Iowa Code § 280.2.

⁶² Iowa Code § 724.4B(2)(b).

⁶³ See Iowa Code § 724.4B(2)(a).

⁶⁴ Iowa Code § 280.21B.

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ Iowa Code § 280.17B.

⁶⁷ An administrative rule prohibits the possession of firearms on the campus of any public institution of higher learning. 681 Iowa Admin. Code 9.1(2)(g).

Other Location Restrictions in Iowa

Any person who is armed with a handgun, or any other firearm that is loaded, whether concealed or not, within the limits of any city is criminally liable for an aggravated misdemeanor.⁶⁸ This prohibition does not apply to the possession of a firearm in a dwelling or place of business, or on land owned or possessed by the person.⁶⁹ This prohibition also does not apply if the handgun is carried unloaded inside a closed and fastened container or other secure package that is too large to be concealed on the person.⁷⁰ In addition, a person will not be in violation of state firearm possession restrictions if he or she possesses a valid permit to carry firearms, keeps his or her conduct within the limits of that permit, and provides the permit to a peace officer on demand.⁷¹

Iowa has no statutes prohibiting the possession of firearms in the following locations, although administrative regulations may apply:

- Parks;
- Hospitals;
- Places of worship;
- Bars or restaurants where alcohol is served;
- Sports arenas;
- Gambling facilities; or
- Polling places.

⁶⁸ Iowa Code § 724.4(1).

⁶⁹ Iowa Code § 724.4(4)(a).

⁷⁰ Iowa Code § 724.4(4)(e).

⁷¹ Iowa Code § 724.4(4)(i).

Consumer & Child Safety

Iowa Design Safety Standards for Handguns

Iowa does not specifically regulate junk guns or unsafe firearms. However, according to research conducted by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence (now Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence), Iowa's Attorney General may have the authority to regulate junk guns, as well as promulgate other firearm safety standards.⁷²

See [*Regulating Guns in America: Design Safety Standards for Handguns*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

⁷² See the Iowa Consumer Frauds statute, Iowa Code § 714.16. For details, see Legal Action Project, Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, Targeting Safety (2001), available at <http://www.bradycenter.org/xshare/pdf/reports/targetingsafety.pdf>.

Locking Devices in Iowa

Iowa only penalizes the unsafe storage of firearms if a minor gains access to the firearm and exhibits it in a public place in an unlawful manner, or uses the firearm unlawfully to cause injury or death to any person.⁷³ See the [Iowa Child Access Prevention](#) section for further information.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Locking Devices](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

⁷³ Iowa Code § 724.22(7).

Personalized / Owner-Authorized Firearms in Iowa

Iowa does not require firearms to be personalized.

See [*Regulating Guns in America: Personalized Firearms*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Iowa Child Access Prevention

Iowa prohibits any person from storing or leaving a loaded firearm that is “not secured by a trigger lock mechanism, placed in a securely locked box or container, or placed in some other location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure from a minor under the age of fourteen years, if the person knows or has reason to believe that a minor under the age of fourteen years is likely to gain access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor’s parent, guardian, or person having charge of the minor.”⁷⁴ If the minor lawfully gains access to the firearm without the consent of his or her parent, guardian, or person having charge of the minor, and the minor exhibits the firearm in a public place in an unlawful manner, or uses the firearm unlawfully to cause injury or death to any person, the parent, guardian, or person having charge of the minor is criminally liable for a serious misdemeanor.⁷⁵

If the minor obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry by any person, this criminal liability will not attach.⁷⁶

Any person who sells, loans, gives, or makes available a rifle or shotgun or ammunition for a rifle or shotgun to a minor is criminally liable for a serious misdemeanor for a first offense and a class “D” felony for second and subsequent offenses.⁷⁷ However, a parent, guardian, spouse age 18 or older, or another person with the express consent of the minor’s parent or guardian or spouse who is at least age 18 may allow a minor to possess a rifle or shotgun or ammunition for lawful use.⁷⁸

Any person who sells, loans, gives or makes available a handgun or ammunition for a handgun to a person under age 21 is criminally liable for a serious misdemeanor for a first offense and a class “D” felony for second and subsequent offenses.⁷⁹ This prohibition does not apply to:

- A person age 18, 19 or 20 while on military duty or while a peace officer, security guard or correctional officer, when such duty requires the possession of such a weapon or while the person receives instruction in the proper use of such firearms from an instructor age 21 or older; or
- A parent, guardian or spouse age 21 or older, of a person from age 14 up to age 21, who may allow the child to possess a handgun or ammunition for a handgun for any lawful purpose while under the direct supervision of the parent, guardian or spouse, or while the person receives instruction in the proper use of such firearms from an instructor age 21 or older, with the consent of the parent, guardian or spouse.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ Iowa Code § 724.22(7).

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ Iowa Code § 724.22(1).

⁷⁸ Iowa Code § 724.22(3).

⁷⁹ Iowa Code § 724.22(2).

⁸⁰ Iowa Code § 724.22(4), (5).

For other measures related to child access prevention, see the [Iowa Locking Devices](#) section.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Child Access Prevention](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Classes of Weapons / Ammunition

Assault Weapons in Iowa

Iowa does not regulate assault weapons. However, any person who “sells or offers for sale a manual or power-driven trigger activating device constructed and designed so that when attached to a firearm increases the rate of fire of the firearm is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.”⁸¹

See [Regulating Guns in America: Assault Weapons](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

⁸¹ Iowa Code § 724.29.

Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines in Iowa

Iowa does not regulate large capacity ammunition magazines. See the [Iowa Assault Weapons](#) section for related information on firearm devices.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Fifty Caliber Rifles in Iowa

Iowa does not regulate fifty caliber rifles.

See [*Regulating Guns in America: Fifty Caliber Rifles*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Machine Guns/Automatic Firearms in Iowa

Iowa generally prohibits private persons from knowingly possessing a machine gun.⁸²

See [LCAV's policy page on Machine Guns](#) for further information.

⁸² Iowa Code §§ 724.1(7), 724.3. Iowa defines a “machine gun” as a firearm that “shoots or is designed to shoot more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.” [Iowa Code § 724.1\(1\)](#).

Non-Powder Guns in Iowa

Iowa does not regulate non-powder guns.

See [*Regulating Guns in America: Non-Powder Guns*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Ammunition Regulation in Iowa

Iowa law does not:

- Prohibit [individuals ineligible to possess firearms](#) under state law from possessing ammunition;
- Require a license for the purchase or possession of ammunition; or
- Require a license to sell ammunition.

Minimum Age to Purchase/Possess Ammunition

Iowa prohibits any person from selling or otherwise transferring handgun ammunition to a person under age 21.⁸³ The state also generally prohibits any person from selling rifle or shotgun ammunition to a person under age 18.⁸⁴ A parent or guardian over age 18, or another with the express consent of the minor's parent or guardian, may allow a minor to possess rifle or shotgun ammunition.⁸⁵ See the [Iowa Minimum Age to Purchase/Possess](#) section for further information.

Regulation of Unreasonably Dangerous Ammunition

Iowa generally prohibits any person from knowingly possessing any bullet or projectile containing any chemical compound or mixture designed to explode or detonate upon impact.⁸⁶

Iowa generally prohibits the possession of any shotgun shell or cartridge containing “exothermic pyrophoric misch” metal as a projectile, which is designed to throw or project a flame or fireball to simulate a flamethrower.⁸⁷

The [federal prohibition on certain kinds of armor-piercing ammunition](#) also applies.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Ammunition Regulation](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

⁸³ Iowa Code § 724.22(2).

⁸⁴ Iowa Code § 724.22(1).

⁸⁵ Iowa Code § 724.22(3).

⁸⁶ Iowa Code §§ 724.1(7), 724.3.

⁸⁷ Iowa Code §§ 724.1(7), 724.3.

Crime Gun Investigation

Iowa Microstamping/Ballistic Identification

Iowa has no laws requiring microstamping or ballistic identification.

See [*Regulating Guns in America: Ballistic Identification*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Firearms Trafficking in Iowa

Iowa prohibits any person from knowingly transferring or acquiring possession, or facilitating the transfer, of a stolen firearm.⁸⁸

Iowa also prohibits any person from transferring a handgun to a person who does not possess a valid annual permit to acquire a handgun, and from transferring a handgun to a person the transferor knows is prohibited by Iowa's permitting requirements from acquiring ownership of a handgun.⁸⁹

Iowa bars any person from giving a false name or presenting false identification, or otherwise knowingly giving false material information to a person one from whom he or she seeks to acquire a handgun.⁹⁰

Finally, Iowa prohibits any person from making what he or she knows to be a false statement of material fact on an application submitted for a professional or nonprofessional permit to carry a firearm or an annual permit to acquire a handgun, or from submitting what he or she knows to be any materially falsified or forged documentation in connection with these applications.⁹¹

See [LCAV's policy page on Firearms Trafficking](#) for further information.

⁸⁸ Iowa Code § 724.16A.

⁸⁹ Iowa Code § 724.16.

⁹⁰ Iowa Code § 724.21.

⁹¹ Iowa Code §§ 724.10(3), 724.17.

Iowa State Links

[Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Kansas City Field Division \(IA, KS, MO, NE\)](#)

[Iowa Department of Justice – Office of the Attorney General](#)