



Kansas

Summary of State Firearms Law

Last Updated April 1, 2011

Overview

In its 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. Kansas ranked 37th out of 50 – having enacted few gun violence prevention laws. Among other things, Kansas law does **not**:

- Require a background check prior to [the transfer of a firearm between unlicensed individuals](#);
- Require firearms dealers to obtain a [state license](#);
- Regulate the transfer or possession of [assault weapons](#), [50 caliber rifles](#), or [large capacity ammunition magazines](#);
- Impose a [waiting period](#) prior to purchase of a firearm;
- Limit the [number of firearms](#) that may be purchased at one time; or
- Regulate unsafe handguns ("[junk guns](#)" or "[Saturday night specials](#)").

Local governments in Kansas generally [lack authority](#) to regulate firearms or ammunition, and local law enforcement must issue [a concealed handgun permit](#) to any applicant who meets basic qualifications.

Kansas Statistics

Gun Deaths

Kansas ranks 27th among the states in terms of the number of gun deaths per capita. In 2007, 292 people died from firearm-related injuries in Kansas.¹

Crime Guns

Mayors Against Illegal Guns recently developed web pages detailing [data about each state's crime gun imports and exports](#). In 2009, [Kansas](#) supplied more than twice as many crime guns to other states per capita that it imported from other states, and had the 21st highest rate of crime gun exports among the states.²

Number of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers

There are 955 federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in Kansas.³

¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2007* (2011), at http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate10_sy.html.

² Mayors Against Illegal Guns, *Trace the Guns: The Link Between Gun Laws and Interstate Gun Trafficking* (September 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* (Aug. 2011), at <http://www.atf.gov/about/foia/ffl-list.html>.

Kansas “Right to Bear Arms”

Kansas’s constitution provides a right to bear arms, but courts have held that this provision does not confer an individual right to “bear arms.” Rather, it only protects the rights of a member of the state militia or other military organization provided for by law. See [LCAV’s State Right to Bear Arms Provisions](#) for more-detailed information.

Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Kansas

Kansas has preempted most areas of local firearm regulation. See [LCAV's State Preemption/Local Authority to Regulate Firearms summary](#) for further information.

State Firearms Policies in Kansas

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

Persons Prohibited from Firearm Possession

Kansas Prohibited Purchasers Generally

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

[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.

Kansas law prohibits any person from possessing a firearm if he or she:

- Is both addicted to and an unlawful user of a controlled substance;⁴
- Has been convicted of a "person" felony (a felony crime committed against or upon a person, e.g., homicide, rape, battery, kidnapping) or a violation of any provision of the Kansas uniform controlled substance act or a similar violation under the laws of another jurisdiction, or has been adjudicated a juvenile offender because of the commission of an act which if done by an adult would constitute the commission of a "person" felony, or a violation of any provision of the Kansas uniform controlled substances act, and was found to have been in possession of a firearm at the time of the offense;⁵
- Within the preceding ten years, has been convicted of a "nonperson" felony under Kansas law or a similar crime under the laws of another jurisdiction, has been released from imprisonment for such felony or was adjudicated as a juvenile offender because of the commission of an act which if done by an adult would constitute the commission of a "nonperson" felony, and was found not to have been in possession of a firearm at the time of the commission of the offense;⁶
- Within the preceding five or ten years, depending on the crime, has been convicted of a felony under the laws of Kansas or a crime under a law of another jurisdiction which is substantially the same as such felony, has been released from imprisonment for a felony or was adjudicated as a juvenile offender because of the commission of an act which if done by an adult would constitute the commission of a felony, and was found not to have been in possession of a firearm at the time of the commission of the offense;⁷ or
- Is or has been a mentally ill person subject to involuntary commitment for care and treatment, or a person with an alcohol or substance abuse problem subject to

⁴ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(10).

⁵ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6304(a)(1).

⁶ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6304(a)(3)(B).

⁷ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6304(a)(2), (3)(A).

involuntary commitment for care and treatment, unless he or she has received a "certificate of restoration" pursuant to Kansas law.⁸

Under Kansas law, a person who was previously ordered to involuntary commitment for care and treatment as a mentally ill person or a person with an alcohol or substance abuse problem and who has been discharged from a facility may file a petition in the court where treatment was ordered for the restoration of the ability to legally possess a firearm.⁹ If the court finds the person is no longer likely to cause harm to such person's self or others, the court must issue a certificate of restoration to the person.¹⁰ Such restoration has the effect of restoring the person's ability to legally possess a firearm, and the certification of restoration shall so state. The certificate of registration applies only to the possession of a firearm for the purposes of the state prohibition on firearm possession by the mentally ill and persons with an alcohol or substance abuse problem.¹¹

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

⁸ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(13). See *also* 2011 Kan. S.B. 55 (signed May 25, 2011) (creating a procedure for a person with a history of mental illness to obtain relief from federal and state firearm disabilities).

⁹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c26(a).

¹⁰ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c26(c).

¹¹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c26(d).

Kansas Minimum Age to Purchase / Possess Firearms

Kansas law does not impose restrictions on sales of firearms to minors. There is also no minimum age to possess firearms under Kansas law, although no person under age 18 may knowingly possess a firearm with a barrel less than 12 inches long, unless that person is:

- In attendance at a hunter's or firearms safety course;
- Engaged in practice in the use of such firearm, or target shooting at a lawful, established range;
- Engaged in an organized competition involving the use of such firearm, or participating in or practicing for a performance by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which uses firearms as part of the performance;
- Hunting or trapping pursuant to a valid license;
- Traveling to or from one of the above activities, provided the handgun is secured, unloaded, and outside the immediate access of that person; or
- At his or her residence, or on real property under the control of that person's parent or legal guardian or grandparent, and the parent, legal guardian or grandparent has granted permission for the possession.¹²

[Federal age restrictions](#) impose stricter limits.

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

¹² Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(14), (k).

Domestic Violence and Firearms in Kansas

Kansas law does **not**:

- Prohibit individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors from possessing firearms or ammunition (unlike [federal law](#));
- Prohibit individuals subject to domestic violence protective orders from possessing firearms or ammunition (unlike [federal law](#));
- Require courts to notify domestic abusers when they become prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition under [federal law](#);
- Require the surrender of firearms or ammunition by domestic abusers who have become prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition under federal law; or
- Explicitly authorize or require the removal of firearms or ammunition at the scene of a domestic violence incident.

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

Disarming Prohibited Persons in Kansas

Kansas has no law requiring the removal of firearms from [persons who have become prohibited from possessing them](#).

Sales & Transfers

Background Checks in Kansas

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

[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 federal [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(“NICS”\) database](#). (Note that state files are not always included in the federal database.)

Kansas is not a point of contact state for the NICS. Kansas has no law requiring firearms dealers to initiate background checks prior to transferring a firearm. As a result, in Kansas, firearms dealers must initiate the background check required by federal law by contacting the FBI directly.¹³

Federal law does not require dealers to conduct a background check if a firearm purchaser presents a state permit to purchase or possess firearms that meets certain conditions.¹⁴ As a result, concealed weapons license holders in Kansas are exempt from the federal background check requirement.¹⁵ (Note, however, that people who have become prohibited from possessing firearms may continue to hold state permits – and pass background checks – if the state fails to remove these permits in a timely fashion.)

Kansas does not require private sellers (sellers who are not licensed dealers) to initiate a background check when transferring a firearm. See [Regulating Guns in America: Private Sales](#).

¹³ 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 July 26, 2011).

¹⁴ Federal law exempts persons who have been issued state permits to purchase or possess firearms 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. [18 U.S.C. § 922\(t\)\(3\)](#), [27 C.F.R. § 478.102\(d\)](#).

¹⁵ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, U.S. Dept. of Justice, *Brady Law: Permanent Brady Permit Chart* (Aug. 26, 2011), at <http://www.atf.gov/firearms/brady-law/permit-chart.html>.

Mental Health Reporting in Kansas

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

Federal law prohibits possession of a firearm or ammunition by any person who has been “adjudicated as a mental defective” or involuntarily “committed to any mental institution.”¹⁶ No federal law, however, requires states to report the identities of these individuals to the [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(“NICS”\) database](#), which the FBI uses to perform background checks prior to firearm transfers.

In 2006, Kansas passed a law requiring the reporting of certain persons involuntarily committed to mental institutions to NICS. More specifically, whenever a district court orders a person to receive treatment for mental illness or an alcohol or substance abuse problem under certain provisions, the clerk of the court must send a copy of the order to the Kansas bureau of investigation within five days. The Kansas bureau of investigation must then enter the order into NICS and other appropriate databases.¹⁷

The 2006 law also required every district court to review all files dated on or after July 1, 1998, concerning “mentally ill persons subject to involuntary commitment for care and treatment” and “persons with an alcohol or substance abuse problem subject to involuntary commitment for care and treatment.”¹⁸ If the court ordered treatment pursuant to the relevant provisions, the clerk of the court was required to report the order and all available information identifying the patient including, but not limited to, birth, gender and race, to the Kansas bureau of investigation.¹⁹ The Kansas bureau of investigation was required to immediately cause the order to be entered into the appropriate state and federal databases.²⁰

Whenever a court orders a person involuntarily committed to a state psychiatric hospital to be released, and issues a certificate of restoration to that person, the court must order the clerk of the district court to report the release and certificate of restoration to the Kansas bureau of investigation within five days.²¹

Kansas law requires a court to notify a person that it is a violation of the law for him or her to possess firearms whenever the court finds that the person is a mentally ill person subject to involuntary commitment for care and treatment who is a danger to self or others, or a

¹⁶ [18 U.S.C. § 922\(d\)\(4\)](#).

¹⁷ Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 59-2966(a) (regarding involuntary commitment of mentally ill persons upon clear and convincing evidence for care and treatment for up to three months) and 59-29b66(a) (regarding commitment of a person with an alcohol or substance abuse problem upon clear and convincing evidence for care and treatment for up to three months). See Kan. Stat. Ann. § 59-2946(e), (f)(1) for the standard for involuntarily committing a mentally ill person. See Kan. Stat. Ann. § 59-29b46(f), (g)(1) for the standard for involuntarily committing a “person with an alcohol or substance abuse problem.”

¹⁸ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c25(a).

¹⁹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c25(b).

²⁰ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c25(c)-(d).

²¹ Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 59-2974 and 59-29b74. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c25(e) reiterates that, after July 1, 2007, all orders of involuntary commitment for care and treatment as specified above and any orders of “termination of discharge” must be immediately forwarded to the Kansas bureau of investigation for entry into the appropriate state and federal databases.

person with an alcohol or substance abuse problem subject to involuntary commitment for care and treatment.²² Upon release, the state hospital must again notify the patient that it is a violation of the law for the patient to possess a firearm and provide information to the patient regarding the restoration procedure.

In 2011, Kansas enacted a law creating a procedure for a person with a history of mental illness to obtain relief from both federal and state firearm disabilities.²³ A court that grants a petition for relief must submit documentation to the Kansas bureau of investigation. The Kansas bureau of investigation must immediately cause such order to be entered into the appropriate state and federal databases.²⁴

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

²² Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c25(f).

²³ 2011 Kan. S.B. 55 § 1 (signed May 25, 2011).

²⁴ *Id.*

Multiple Purchases / Sales of Firearms in Kansas

Kansas has no law restricting sales or purchases of multiple firearms. 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 Kansas

Kansas has no laws requiring the retention of sales or background check records by firearm sellers generally, or requiring the reporting of sales of firearms to a state or local agency.

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

Kansas Waiting Periods

Kansas imposes no waiting period between the time of purchase and the actual physical transfer of a firearm.

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

Gun Dealers & Other Sellers

Kansas Dealer Regulations

[Federal law requires firearms dealers to obtain a license](#) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), although resource limitations prevent the ATF from properly overseeing all its licensees.

Kansas does not require firearms dealers to obtain a state license, or significantly regulate firearms dealers in any way. See the [Kansas Private Sales](#) section for gun laws that apply to gun sales generally. See the [Kansas Background Checks](#) section for gun laws that require federally licensed dealers to conduct background checks on firearm purchasers.

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

Private Sales in Kansas

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

Kansas has no law requiring a background check on the purchaser of a firearm when the seller is not a licensed dealer. Kansas does, however, prohibit any person from knowingly selling, giving or otherwise transferring any firearm to any person:

- Under 18 years of age, if the firearm has a barrel less than 12 inches long;²⁵
- Who is both addicted to and an unlawful user of a controlled substance;²⁶
- Who has been convicted of a felony under the laws of Kansas or any other state and was found to have been in possession of a firearm at the time of the commission of the offense;²⁷
- Who, within the preceding five years has been convicted of certain felonies under the law of Kansas or any other state, or has been released from imprisonment for a felony, and was not found to have been in possession of a firearm at the time of the commission of the offense;²⁸
- Who, within the preceding ten years has been convicted of certain felonies, even if he or she was not found to have been in possession of a firearm at the time of the commission of the offense, or has been released from imprisonment for such crime, and has not had the conviction of the crime expunged or been pardoned for such crime;²⁹ or
- Is or has been a mentally ill person subject to involuntary commitment for care and treatment as defined by Kansas law, or a person with an alcohol or substance abuse problem subject to involuntary commitment for care and treatment, unless he or she obtained a "certificate of restoration pursuant to Kansas law."³⁰ See the [Kansas Prohibited Persons Generally](#) section for further information about these certificates.

²⁵ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(7).

²⁶ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(8).

²⁷ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6303(a)(3).

²⁸ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6303(a)(1).

²⁹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6303(a)(2).

³⁰ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(9).

Kansas Gun Shows

Kansas has no laws expressly regulating gun shows. Sales of collectibles, including guns, are exempt from state laws requiring the licensing of transient merchants in each county where the merchant does business.³¹ A "transient merchant" is any person who engages in, does or transacts any temporary or transient business in the state, either in one locality or in traveling from place to place in the state, and includes merchants who, for the purpose of carrying on such business, hire, lease, use or occupy any building, structure, motor vehicle, railroad car or real estate.³²

See the [Kansas Private Sales](#) section for state laws that apply at gun shows. See [Regulating Guns in America: Gun Shows](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

³¹ Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 19-2233(a)(2), (12), (15), 19-2235.

³² Kan. Stat. Ann. § 19-2232(c).

Kansas Immunity Statutes

The Kansas Legislature has immunized firearm or ammunition manufacturers and dealers from certain civil suits by local governments. For details regarding this law, see [Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Kansas](#).

Kansas law also immunizes owners and users of a sport shooting range from civil liability and criminal prosecution, so long as it conforms to generally accepted operation practices, in any matter relating to noise or noise pollution, if the range is in compliance with noise control laws or ordinances or resolutions that applied to the range at the time of construction. If the range is in compliance with such laws, the shooting range owner or user is also not subject to an action for nuisance, and cannot be enjoined from the use or operation of a range on the basis of noise or noise pollution.³³

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.

³³ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 58-3222.

Gun Owner Responsibilities

Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers in Kansas

Kansas has no law requiring gun owners or purchasers to obtain a license. See [Regulating Guns in America: Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Kansas Registration of Firearms

Kansas has no law requiring firearms to be registered. See [Regulating Guns in America: Registration of Firearms](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms in Kansas

Kansas does not require firearm owners to report the loss or theft of a firearm. 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 Kansas

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

Kansas does not prohibit the carrying of a concealed firearm if the person has a concealed weapons license.³⁴

As of January 1, 2007, Kansas is a "shall issue" state, meaning that the attorney general must issue a concealed weapons license if the applicant meets certain qualifications.³⁵ The attorney general must issue a license if the applicant:

- Is a resident of the county where the application is made and has been a resident of the state for six months;
- Is 21 years of age or older;
- Is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal or Kansas law; and
- Presents evidence satisfactory to the attorney general that he or she has satisfactorily completed a weapons safety and training course approved by the attorney general (see below for further information).³⁶

[A law enacted in Kansas in 2010](#) removed a number of disqualifying categories which had previously prevented certain other individuals from obtaining licenses.³⁷ The law also allows new residents of Kansas to carry concealed weapons while their application for a Kansas license is pending so long as they hold a valid license from a state whose license Kansas recognizes, and allows Kansas license holders to retain their licenses for 90 days after they relocate outside the state.³⁸

Kansas law gives the sheriff of the applicant's county of residence or the chief law enforcement officer of any law enforcement agency discretion to submit, within 45 days after receipt of the application, a voluntary report to the attorney general containing readily discoverable information corroborated through public records, which, when combined with another enumerated factor establishes that the applicant poses a significantly greater threat to law enforcement or the public at large than the average citizen.³⁹ The attorney general may deny the application based solely on the report submitted by the sheriff or other chief law enforcement officer.⁴⁰

³⁴ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6302(a)(4), (d)(8).

³⁵ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c03.

³⁶ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c04.

³⁷ 2010 Kan. SB 306 (effective July 1, 2010). For the Kansas Attorney General's summary of this new law, see http://www.ksag.org/files/2010_Summary_SB306_-_Website2.pdf.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c05(c)(2)

⁴⁰ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c05(e)(2)(A). Additional application and background check requirements, as well as license suspension and disqualification information, are detailed

Firearm Safety Training

An applicant for a Kansas concealed weapons license must present evidence satisfactory to the attorney general that he or she has satisfactorily completed a weapons safety and training course approved by the attorney general.⁴¹

The attorney general is required to adopt rules and regulations establishing procedures and standards for the eight-hour weapons safety and training course.⁴² Such standards must include:

- A requirement that trainees receive training in the safe storage of weapons, actual firing of weapons, and instruction in the Kansas laws governing the carrying of a concealed weapon and the use of deadly force;
- General guidelines for courses which are compatible with the industry standard for basic firearms training for civilians;
- Qualifications for instructors; and
- A requirement that the course be certified or sponsored by the National Rifle Association or a law enforcement agency, college, private or public institution or organization or weapons training school approved by the attorney general.⁴³

The following constitutes sufficient evidence of satisfactory completion of an approved weapons safety and training program:

- Evidence of completion of the course in the form provided by rules and regulations adopted by the attorney general; or
- An affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization or group that conducted or taught such course attesting to the completion of the course by the applicant.⁴⁴

Duration & Renewal

Kansas licenses to carry concealed weapons are valid for a period of four years from the date of issuance.⁴⁵ The attorney general must mail a notice of expiration and renewal form to the license holder at least 90 days prior to the expiration date of the license.⁴⁶ [A law enacted in Kansas in 2010](#) removed the requirement that the license holder re-qualify by completion of an approved weapons safety and training course.⁴⁷

under Kansas Statutes Annotated §§ 75-7c03—75-7c05, and Kan. Admin. Regs. §§ 16-11-5, 16-11-8.

⁴¹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c04.

⁴² Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c04(b).

⁴³ *Id.* The attorney general has established standards pursuant to this provision. See Kan. Admin. Regs. §§ 16-11-2—16-11-4 for details.

⁴⁴ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c04(b)(2).

⁴⁵ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c03(a).

⁴⁶ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c08.

⁴⁷ 2010 Kan. SB 306 (effective July 1, 2010).

Disclosure or Use of Information

Kansas does not allow personal application or license information of concealed weapons license holders to be made public. Records relating to persons issued licenses, applicants for licenses, or persons denied licenses are confidential and must not be disclosed in a manner which enables identification of any such person.⁴⁸ However, records of a person whose license has been suspended or revoked are subject to public inspection. In addition, the attorney general maintains an automated listing of license holders and pertinent information, and such information is available upon request at all times to all law enforcement agencies when requested for a legitimate law enforcement purpose.⁴⁹

Reciprocity

Kansas recognizes a valid license to carry concealed weapons issued by any other state or the District of Columbia as long as the holder is not a resident of Kansas, if the attorney general determines that the standards for issuance of such a license or permit are reasonably similar to or greater than the standards imposed by Kansas.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c06.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c03(c).

Open Carrying in Kansas

Kansas does not prohibit the [open carrying of firearms in public](#). However, Kansas law explicitly allows cities and counties to regulate the open carrying of loaded firearms on property open to the public by individuals not licensed to carry a concealed weapon.⁵¹

⁵¹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 12-16,124(b). See also Kan. Op. Att'y Gen. 2011-006, 2011 Kan. AG LEXIS 4 (discussing the interpretation of this provision).

Location Restrictions

Guns in Vehicles in Kansas

In Kansas, a city or county may adopt an ordinance, resolution or regulation requiring a firearm transported in any air, land or water vehicle to be unloaded and encased in a container which completely encloses the firearm, or any less restrictive provision governing the transporting of firearms, provided that the ordinance, resolution or regulation does not apply to [concealed weapons licensees](#).⁵²

No person may be prosecuted under any ordinance, resolution or regulation for transporting a firearm in any air, land or water vehicle if the firearm is unloaded and encased in a container which completely encloses the firearm.⁵³

⁵² Kan. Stat. Ann. § 12-16,124(b)(4).

⁵³ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 12-16,124(d). See also Kan. Stat. Ann. § 12-16,124(c) (limiting prosecutions of travelers).

Guns in Schools in Kansas

Kansas law prohibits possessing a firearm in or on any school property or grounds upon which is located a building or structure used by a unified school district or an accredited nonpublic school for student instruction or attendance or extracurricular activities of pupils enrolled in kindergarten or any of the grades 1 through 12 or at any regularly scheduled school-sponsored activity or event.⁵⁴ This prohibition does not apply to a firearm secured in a motor vehicle by a parent, guardian, custodian or someone authorized to act in such person's behalf who is delivering or collecting a student.⁵⁵ This prohibition also does not apply to a concealed weapons license holder.⁵⁶

However, another provision of Kansas law provides that a concealed weapons license does **not** authorize the licensee to carry a concealed handgun into certain places, provided that the premises are conspicuously posted in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the attorney general as premises where carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited. These places include any:

- Day care home, preschool, or child care center;
- Elementary or secondary school;
- Community college, college or university; or
- Facility hosting an athletic event not related to or involving firearms which is sponsored by a private or public elementary or secondary school or any private or public institution of postsecondary education.⁵⁷

Kansas has no law generally prohibiting firearms on college or university campuses.

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

⁵⁴ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(11), (12). See also Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-89a01(b), 72-89a02 (requiring the expulsion of students who possess a firearm at school, on school property, or at a school supervised activity).

⁵⁵ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(i)(3).

⁵⁶ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(i)(5).

⁵⁷ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c10(a)(7), (10), (11), (15).

Other Location Restrictions in Kansas

Kansas law provides that, if the buildings are conspicuously posted in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the attorney general as premises where carrying a concealed weapon is prohibited, a license to carry a concealed weapon does not authorize the licensee to carry a concealed weapon into:

- Any place where an activity declared a common nuisance by Kansas law (gambling, obscenity, prostitution, or unlawful drug, alcohol, pyrotechnic or gang activity) is maintained;
- Any police, sheriff or highway patrol station;
- Any detention facility, prison or jail;
- Any courthouse, except that a judge may determine who carries in his or her courtroom;
- Any polling place on the day an election is held;
- Any state office building;
- Any facility hosting a professional athletic event not related to or involving firearms;
- Any portion of premises open to the public where alcohol is sold by the individual drink, unless the place qualifies as a "restaurant" under Kansas law;
- Any "child exchange and visitation center" provided for by Kansas law;
- Any community mental health center or mental health clinic organized pursuant to certain provisions of Kansas law, or any licensed psychiatric hospital; or Larned state hospital, Osawatomie state hospital or Rainbow mental health facility;
- Any public library operated by the state;
- Any day care home, group day care home, preschool or childcare center; or
- Any place of worship.⁵⁸

Kansas law also prohibits the possession of a firearm, whether concealed or unconcealed, on the grounds of or in specific state-owned or leased buildings or county courthouses. [Concealed weapons licensees](#) are exempt, unless the building has posted a sign as described above.⁵⁹

In addition, the carrying of concealed weapons by license holders may also be restricted by:

- A public or private employer by personnel policies while the license holder is on the premises of the employer's business or engaged in the duties of the person's employment by the employer except that no employer may prohibit possession of a firearm in a private means of conveyance, even if parked on the employer's premises; and

⁵⁸ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c10.

⁵⁹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6309.

- A private business or a city, county or political subdivision while the license holder is within a building of such entity, provided that the premises are posted as premises where carrying a concealed weapon is prohibited in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the attorney general.⁶⁰

The attorney general's rules and regulations must require, at a minimum, that:

- (1) The signs be posted at all exterior entrances to the prohibited buildings;
- (2) They be posted at eye level of adults using the entrance and not more than 12 inches to the right or left of such entrance;
- (3) The signs not be obstructed or altered in any way; and
- (4) Signs which become illegible for any reason be immediately replaced.⁶¹

The attorney general has established additional regulations for the posting of these signs.⁶²

Kansas has no statutes prohibiting firearms in parks or hospitals, although administrative regulations may apply.

⁶⁰ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c10(b).

⁶¹ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-7c10(f).

⁶² See Kan. Admin. Reg. § 16-11-7.

Consumer & Child Safety

Kansas Design Safety Standards for Handguns

Kansas does not specifically regulate junk guns or unsafe firearms. See [Regulating Guns in America: Design Safety Standards for Handguns](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Locking Devices in Kansas

Kansas law does not require a locking device to accompany the sale of a firearm (although the [federal law](#) applies). Nor does Kansas law require firearm owners to lock their weapons. See [Regulating Guns in America: Locking Devices](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Personalized / Owner-Authorized Firearms in Kansas

Kansas does not require firearms to be personalized. See [Regulating Guns in America: Personalized Firearms](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Kansas Child Access Prevention

Kansas has no state statute specifically relating to firearms access by children, but state law prohibits any person from creating a hazard, which includes "[e]xposing, abandoning or otherwise leaving any explosive or dangerous substance in a place accessible to children."⁶³

State administrative regulations govern storage of firearms in certain locations.

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

⁶³ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-4212(a)(3).

Classes of Weapons / Ammunition

Assault Weapons in Kansas

Kansas has no law restricting assault weapons. See [Regulating Guns in America: Assault Weapons](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines in Kansas

Kansas has no law restricting large capacity ammunition magazines. See [*Regulating Guns in America: Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Fifty Caliber Rifles in Kansas

Kansas has no law restricting fifty caliber rifles. See [Regulating Guns in America: Fifty Caliber Rifles](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Machine Guns/Automatic Firearms in Kansas

Kansas law prohibits knowingly selling, manufacturing, purchasing, possessing, or carrying any firearm designed to discharge or capable of discharging automatically more than once by a single function of the trigger, unless the person or entity is in compliance with the National Firearms Act.⁶⁴ Note, however, that the National Firearms Act generally allows private citizens to register machine guns so long as the machine guns were manufactured prior to May 19, 1986. Kansas has no stricter regulations.

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

⁶⁴ Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 21-6301(a)(5), (h); 21-6302(a)(5), (e)(3).

Non-Powder Guns in Kansas

Kansas has no law restricting non-powder guns. See [Regulating Guns in America: Non-Powder Guns](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Ammunition Regulation in Kansas

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

Kansas law prohibits possessing, manufacturing, causing to be manufactured, selling, offering for sale, lending, purchasing or giving away any cartridge which can be fired by a handgun and which has a plastic-coated bullet that has a core of less than 60% lead by weight.⁶⁵

Kansas law does not:

- Impose a minimum age for the purchase or possession of ammunition (although [federal law](#) applies);
- 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.

⁶⁵ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(6).

Investigating Gun Crimes

Kansas Microstamping/Ballistic Identification

Kansas has no laws regarding firearm microstamping or ballistic identification. See [*Regulating Guns in America: Ballistic Identification*](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Firearms Trafficking in Kansas

Kansas has no law prohibiting the giving of false information when purchasing a firearm, or buying a firearm on behalf of someone else while claiming to be the actual buyer of the firearm. Kansas law also does not prohibit a firearms dealer from knowingly failing to conduct the federally required background check on a purchaser.

Kansas prohibits intentionally changing, altering, removing or obliterating the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number or other mark of identification of any firearm. Possession of a firearm upon which any such mark has been intentionally changed, altered, removed or obliterated is prima facie evidence that the possessor has changed, altered, removed or obliterated the same.⁶⁶

⁶⁶ Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6306.

Kansas State Links

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

[Kansas Attorney General's Office](#)

[Safe Kids Kansas](#)