



Missouri

Summary of State Firearms Law

Last updated April 3, 2012

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 firearm-related policy areas. Missouri ranked 39 out of 50 – having enacted few gun violence prevention laws. Among other things, Missouri does **not**:

- Require a background check prior to [the transfer of a firearm between unlicensed parties](#);
- Prohibit the transfer or possession of [assault weapons](#), [50 caliber rifles](#) or [large capacity ammunition magazines](#);
- Require [firearms dealers](#) to obtain a state license;
- Require gun owners to [obtain a license](#), [register their firearms](#), or [report lost or stolen firearms](#);
- Limit the [number of firearms](#) that may be purchased at one time;
- Impose a [waiting period](#) on firearm purchases;
- Regulate unsafe handguns (“[junk guns](#)” or “[Saturday night specials](#)”);
- Significantly [regulate ammunition](#);
- Allow [local governments to regulate](#) firearms; or
- Give local law enforcement discretion to deny a [concealed carry endorsement](#).

Missouri Statistics

Gun Deaths in Missouri

In 2009, Missouri ranked 13th among the states in number of gun deaths per capita. 822 people died from firearm-related injuries in Missouri in that year.¹

Crime Guns in Missouri

Mayors Against Illegal Guns recently developed web pages detailing [data about each state's crime gun imports and exports](#). [Missouri](#) imports more crime guns than it exports.² However, an unusually high proportion of guns that are originally sold in Missouri and are recovered after being used in crimes are recovered soon after the original purchase - a good indicator of crime gun trafficking. More specifically, in 2009, 40.2% of the crime guns originally sold in Missouri were recovered within two years. The national average proportion of crime guns recovered within this time period is 22.6%.

Number of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in Missouri

There are 2,078 federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in Missouri.³

Black Homicide Victimization in Missouri

According to Violence Policy Center, in 2009, Missouri had the highest rate of black homicide victimization among the states for the second year in a row. More specifically, in 2009, there were 239 black homicide victims in Missouri, resulting in a homicide rate of 34.72 per 100,000. For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 87% of black victims (200 out of 229) were killed with guns.⁴

¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 1999-2009, for National, Regional, and States (RESTRICTED)*, at http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/dataRestriction_inj.html. (Jan. 2012).

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* (Feb. 2012), at <http://www.atf.gov/about/foia/ffl-list.html>.

⁴ Violence Policy Center, *Press Release: Missouri Leads Nation in Black Homicide Victimization for Second Year in a Row* (Jan. 2012), at <http://www.vpc.org/press/1201homicide.htm>.

Missouri “Right to Bear Arms”

The Missouri Constitution provides for the keeping and bearing of arms, but permits some firearm-related regulation for public health and safety purposes. See [LCAV’s State Right to Bear Arms Provisions](#) for more-detailed information.

Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Missouri

Missouri has preempted most areas of local firearms regulation. See [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.

Persons Prohibited from Firearm Possession

Missouri 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.

Missouri prohibits the possession of a firearm by:

- Any person convicted of a felony under Missouri law or a crime under any state's laws or federal law which, if committed in Missouri, would be classified as a felony;
- A fugitive from justice;
- A person habitually in an intoxicated or drugged condition; or
- A person currently adjudged mentally incompetent.⁵

Missouri law prohibits the possession of a firearm by any person who is intoxicated, unless the firearm is: 1) not readily accessible; 2) transported in a nonfunctioning state; or 3) unloaded, and ammunition is not readily accessible.⁶

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

⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.070.1.

⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 571.030.1(5), 571.030.3.

Missouri Minimum Age to Purchase / Possess Firearms

Missouri prohibits “recklessly” selling, leasing, loaning, giving away or delivering any firearm to a person under age 18 without the consent of the child’s custodial parent or guardian.⁷

Missouri prohibits anyone from violating the federal law prohibiting a person under age 18 from possessing a handgun or handgun ammunition and prohibiting anyone from selling or transferring a handgun or handgun ammunition to a person under age 18.⁸

[Federal law](#) imposes stricter age restrictions in certain situations.

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

⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.060.1(2).

⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.080 (referring to [18 U.S.C. § 922\(x\)](#)).

Domestic Violence and Firearms in Missouri

(This section was last updated December 19, 2010.)

Missouri law does **not**:

- Prohibit individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors from purchasing or 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.⁹

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

⁹ For prohibitions on obtaining a concealed carry endorsement due to a domestic violence order of protection, see the [Missouri Concealed Weapons Permitting](#) section.

Disarming Prohibited Persons in Missouri

(This section was last updated December 19, 2010.)

For persons convicted for committing or attempting to commit a felony in which a firearm is used in any manner, Missouri law authorizes, but does not require, the convicting court to order the confiscation and disposal, or sale or trade to a licensed firearms dealer, of any firearms or ammunition used in the commission of the crime or found in the possession or immediate control of the defendant at the time of his or her arrest.¹⁰

Missouri has no other law requiring the removal of firearms from [individuals prohibited from possessing them](#).

¹⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.095. If the firearms or ammunition are not the property of the convicted felon, they shall be returned to their rightful owner if he or she is known and was not a participant in the crime. *Id.*

Sales & Transfers

Missouri Background Checks

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.)

Missouri is not a point of contact state for firearm purchaser background checks. In Missouri, all firearms transfers by licensed dealers are processed directly through the FBI, which enforces the federal purchaser prohibitions referenced above.¹¹

See *Regulating Guns in America: Background Checks* for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Missouri 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.*

¹¹ 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>.

Missouri Mental Health Reporting

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.”¹² 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 Missouri, all records required to be closed – that is, confidential – are generally inaccessible to the public.¹³ However, records and files concerning court proceedings for mental health and psychiatric issues are available to the Missouri State Highway Patrol for reporting to the FBI for inclusion in NICS.¹⁴

When a criminal defendant is acquitted on the ground of “mental disease or defect excluding culpability,” the judgment must state that fact along with the offense for which the defendant was acquitted.¹⁵ The clerk of court must furnish a copy of any judgment, or order of commitment to the Missouri Department of Mental Health, to the criminal records central repository.¹⁶

In addition, a person who has been adjudged incapacitated or involuntarily committed may petition for the removal of the disqualification to possess a firearm. If the petition is granted, the court clerk must forward the order to the Missouri State Highway Patrol for updating of the petitioner’s record with NICS.¹⁷

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

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

¹² [18 U.S.C. § 922\(d\)\(4\)](#).

¹³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.120(1).

¹⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 630.140.5.

¹⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 552.030(7).

¹⁶ *Id.* See Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 43.503.6, 43.503.7.

¹⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 475.375.

Multiple Purchases / Sales of Firearms in Missouri

Missouri imposes no restrictions on purchases or sales 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 Missouri

Missouri makes it a violation of state law for a licensed dealer to violate the federal provision prohibiting dealers from transferring a firearm to any person unless the dealer notes in the required records the name, age, and place of residence of the purchaser if the purchaser is an individual, or the identity and principal and local places of business of the purchaser if the purchaser is a corporation or other business entity.¹⁸

Missouri has no other retention or reporting requirements for firearm 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.

¹⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.080 (referring to [18 U.S.C. § 922\(b\)\(5\)](#)).

Missouri Waiting Periods

Missouri has no law imposing a waiting period prior to purchase of a firearm.

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

Gun Dealers & Other Sellers

Missouri Dealer Regulations

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

[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.

Missouri does not require firearms dealers to obtain a state license.

Missouri makes it a violation of state law for a licensed dealer to violate certain federal requirements. More specifically, a federally licensed dealer commits a state crime if it violates the federal law:

- Governing the age of firearm purchasers;
- Prohibiting sales to purchasers prohibited by state law from possessing a firearm; and
- Limiting the state of residence of certain purchasers.¹⁹

However, Missouri law prohibits a federal firearms dealer who engages in the sale of firearms from failing or refusing to complete the sale of a firearm to a customer when the sale is authorized by federal law.²⁰ This provision does not apply to any individual federal firearms license holder or his or her agents or employees to the extent they chose in their individual judgment to not complete the sale or transfer of a firearm for articulable reasons specific to that transaction, so long as those reasons are not based on the race, gender, religion, or creed of the buyer.²¹

For laws:

- Applicable to both licensed and private firearm sellers, please see the [Missouri Private Sales](#) section;
- Requiring firearms dealers to conduct a background check on purchasers, see the [Missouri Background Checks](#) section;
- Requiring firearms dealers to ensure that purchasers possess a locking device, see the [Missouri Locking Devices](#) section; and

¹⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.080 (referring to [18 U.S.C. § 922\(b\)](#)).

²⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.014.3. Note that this provision appears to nullify all of the state prohibited purchaser categories. See the [Missouri Prohibited Purchasers Generally](#) section for these provisions.

²¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.014.4.

- Requiring firearms dealers to retain records of sales, see the section entitled [Retention of Sales / Background Checks Records in Missouri](#).

Private Sales in Missouri

Missouri prohibits any person from:

- Knowingly selling, leasing, loaning, giving away or delivering a firearm to a person who is not entitled to possess the firearm under Missouri law;²²
- Recklessly selling, leasing, loaning, giving away or delivering any firearm to a person under age 18 without the consent of the child's custodial parent or guardian; or
- Recklessly selling, leasing, loaning, giving away or delivering a firearm or ammunition to a person who is intoxicated.²³

Missouri prohibits any person from denying the sale of a firearm to a person who does not possess a Federal Firearms License, if that transferee is otherwise not prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal or state law, solely on the basis that the non-licensee purchased a firearm that was later the subject of a firearm trace request by law enforcement.²⁴

For laws aimed at gun trafficking, see the section entitled [Firearms Trafficking in Missouri](#).

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

²² Per Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.070; see the [Missouri Prohibited Purchasers Generally](#) section for a list of these prohibited purchasers.

²³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.060.1.

²⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.014.1.

Gun Shows in Missouri

Missouri has no laws regulating gun shows. See the [Missouri 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.

Missouri Immunity Statutes

(This section was last updated December 19, 2010.)

Missouri law provides:

No county, city, town, village or any other political subdivision nor the state shall bring suit or have any right to recover against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer for damages, abatement or injunctive relief resulting from or relating to the lawful design, manufacture, marketing, distribution, or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public. This subsection shall apply to any suit pending as of October 12, 2003, as well as any suit which may be brought in the future. Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall restrict the rights of individual citizens to recover for injury or death caused by the negligent or defective design or manufacture of firearms or ammunition.²⁵

These provisions do not “prevent the state, a county, city, town, village or any other political subdivision from bringing an action against a firearms or ammunition manufacturer or dealer for breach of contract or warranty as to firearms or ammunition purchased by the state or such political subdivision.”²⁶

The Missouri Legislature has determined that “[t]he lawful design, marketing, manufacture, distribution, or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public is not an abnormally dangerous activity and does not constitute a public or private nuisance.”²⁷

In *City of St. Louis v. Cernicek*, 145 S.W.3d 37 (2004), the Missouri Court of Appeals dismissed a suit by St. Louis against firearms manufacturers and sellers on the ground that Missouri Revised Statutes §§ 21.750.4 and 21.750.5 barred the suit. The court held that Missouri Revised Statutes §§ 21.750.4 and 21.750.5 bar tort claims by a city related to the lawful design, manufacture, marketing, distribution, or sale of firearms or ammunition to the public.²⁸ The court refused to address the constitutionality of the statute.²⁹

Missouri law provides that “[a]ny county, city, town, village or other political subdivision found to have filed a frivolous action against any firearms or ammunition manufacturer, trade association or dealer, shall be liable for all costs, attorneys’ fees and other sanctions as the court finds necessary to prevent such future actions by the plaintiff or entities similarly situated.”³⁰

Finally, all owners and authorized users of firearm ranges are immune from criminal or civil liability arising out of or as a consequence of noise or sound emission from the range.³¹ All owners and users of ranges are not subject to civil actions in tort or any action for public or

²⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 21.750.5.

²⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 21.750.6.

²⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 21.750.4.

²⁸ *Cernicek*, 145 S.W.3d at 43.

²⁹ *Id.* at 42.

³⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 67.138.

³¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.294.2.

private nuisance or trespass, and “no court in this state shall enjoin the use or operation of such firearm ranges” on the basis of noise or sound emission resulting from the use of any such range.³² Moreover, all owners and authorized users of hunting preserves or areas designated as hunting preserves after August 28, 2008, are immune from criminal and civil liability arising out of or as a consequence of noise or sound emission from the normal use of any such preserve.³³ Owners or authorized users of hunting preserves are not subject to any action for public or private nuisance or trespass, and no court may enjoin the use or operation of such preserves on the basis of noise or sound emission resulting from the normal use of any such preserve.³⁴

These immunity provisions shall not be construed, however, to limit civil liability for compensatory damages arising from physical injury to another human, physical injury to tangible personal property, or physical injury to fixtures or structures on real property.³⁵

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.

³² *Id.*

³³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.294.3.

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 537.294.4.

Gun Owner Responsibilities

Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers in Missouri

Missouri has no licensing requirements for gun owners or purchasers.

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

Missouri Registration of Firearms

Missouri does not require the registration of firearms.

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

Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms in Missouri

Missouri 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 Missouri

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

Missouri generally makes it a crime for a person to carry a firearm concealed upon or about his or her person.³⁶ This prohibition is subject to various exceptions, including if:

- The firearm is not readily accessible;
- In addition to the concealed firearm, the person is in possession of an exposed firearm for the lawful pursuit of game; or
- The person is in his or her dwelling unit or upon premises over which he or she has possession, authority or control.³⁷

Missouri also exempts from this prohibition a person who has a valid “concealed carry endorsement” or a valid permit or endorsement to carry concealed firearms issued by another state.³⁸

Missouri is a “shall issue” state, meaning that a county or city sheriff must issue a certificate of qualification for a concealed carry endorsement if the applicant meets certain qualifications.³⁹ The sheriff must issue a concealed carry endorsement, which will appear on the certificate holder’s driver’s or non-driver’s license, if the applicant:⁴⁰

- Is at least age 21 ([in 2011, Missouri lowered](#) the minimum age for a concealed carry endorsement from 23 to 21);
- Is a citizen of the United States;
- Is either:
 - Is a resident of Missouri; or
 - Is a member of the armed forces stationed in Missouri, or the spouse of such military member;
- Has not pled guilty to or entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year under the laws of any state or of the United States, other than a crime classified as a misdemeanor

³⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.1(1).

³⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.3.

³⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.4. *See also* Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.1.

³⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.2.

⁴⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.2.

punishable by a term of imprisonment of one year or less that does not involve an explosive weapon, firearm, firearm silencer or gas gun;

- Has not been convicted of, pled guilty to or entered a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) to one or more misdemeanor offenses involving crimes of violence during the immediately preceding five-year period, or has not been convicted of two or more misdemeanor offenses involving driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or the possession or abuse of a controlled substance during the immediately preceding five-year period;
- Is not a fugitive from justice or currently charged in an information or indictment with the commission of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year under the laws of any state of the United States, other than a crime classified as a misdemeanor punishable by a term of imprisonment of two years or less that does not involve an explosive weapon, firearm, firearm silencer, or gas gun;
- Has not been discharged under dishonorable conditions from the U.S. armed forces;
- Has not engaged in a pattern of behavior, documented in public records, that causes the sheriff to have a reasonable belief that the applicant presents a danger to himself, herself, or others;
- Is not adjudged mentally incompetent at the time of application or for five years prior to application, or has not been committed to a mental health facility or a similar institution located in another state following a hearing at which the applicant was represented by counsel or a representative; and
- Is not the respondent of a valid “full order of protection” that is still in effect.⁴¹

Firearm Safety Training

Applicants for a concealed carry endorsement are required to demonstrate knowledge of firearms safety training.⁴² Applicants must successfully complete a firearms safety course of at least eight hours that includes:

- Handgun safety techniques in the classroom, at home, on the firing range and while carrying the firearm;
- A physical demonstration by the instructor of safely loading and unloading a revolver and a semiautomatic pistol, and demonstrated marksmanship with both;
- The basic principles of marksmanship;
- Care and cleaning of concealable firearms;

⁴¹ A “full order of protection” is an order of protection issued after a hearing on the record where the respondent has received notice of the proceedings and has had an opportunity to be heard. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 455.010.

⁴² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.111.1.

- Safe storage of firearms at home;
- Missouri's requirements for obtaining a certificate of qualification for a concealed carry endorsement from the sheriff of the individual's county of residence and a concealed carry endorsement issued by the Department of Revenue;
- Missouri's laws relating to firearms;
- Missouri's laws relating to the justifiable use of force;⁴³
- A live firing exercise of sufficient duration for each applicant to fire both a revolver and a semiautomatic pistol, from a standing position or its equivalent, a minimum of 50 rounds from each handgun at a distance of seven yards from a B-27 silhouette target or an equivalent target; and
- A live fire test administered to the applicant while the instructor is present of 20 rounds from each handgun from a standing position or its equivalent at a distance from a B-27 silhouette target, or an equivalent target, of seven yards.⁴⁴

The qualified firearms safety instructor shall affirm that the applicant received this instruction and successfully met all requirements on the certificate of firearms safety training course completion.⁴⁵

An instructor must not give a passing grade to any applicant who: 1) Does not follow the orders of the instructor or cognizant range officer; 2) Handles a firearm in a manner that, in the judgment of the instructor, poses a danger to the applicant or to others; or 3) During the live fire testing portion of the course, fails to hit the silhouette portion of the targets with at least 15 rounds with both handguns.⁴⁶

Instructors are required to: 1) Make the applicant's course records available upon request to the sheriff of the county in which the applicant resides; 2) Maintain all course records on students for a period of no less than four years from course completion date; and 3) Not have more than 40 students in the classroom portion of the course, or more than five students per range officer engaged in range firing.⁴⁷

An applicant satisfies the firearms safety training requirement if he or she:

- Submits a photocopy of a certificate of firearms safety training course completion that is signed by a qualified firearms safety instructor;

⁴³ See Mo. Rev. Stat. Ch. 563, Defense to Justification.

⁴⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.111.2.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.111.3.

⁴⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.111.4.

- Submits a photocopy of a certificate that shows the applicant completed a firearms safety course given by or under the supervision of any state, county, municipal, or federal law enforcement agency;
- Is a qualified firearms safety instructor;
- Submits proof that he or she currently holds any type of valid peace officer license valid under state law;
- Submits proof that the applicant is currently allowed to carry firearms in accordance with state certification requirements; or
- Submits proof that he or she is currently certified as any class of corrections officer by the Missouri department of corrections and has passed at least one eight-hour firearms training course, approved by the director of the Missouri department of corrections that includes instruction on the justifiable use of force.⁴⁸

An applicant must submit an affidavit attesting that he or she has complied with these concealed carry safety training requirements.⁴⁹

Duration & Renewal

A concealed carry endorsement is valid for three years from the date of issuance or renewal.⁵⁰

Disclosure or Use of Information

Information regarding any holder of a certificate of qualification or a concealed carry endorsement is a closed record.⁵¹ Closed records are inaccessible to the general public.⁵²

A sheriff issuing a certificate of qualification for a concealed carry endorsement is required to keep a record of all applications for a certificate of qualification and his or her action on each such application.⁵³ The sheriff is required to report the issuance of all certificates of qualification to the Missouri uniform law enforcement system, but an applicant's status as a holder of a certificate of qualification or a concealed carry endorsement is not public information and must be considered personal protected information.⁵⁴

Reciprocity

A concealed carry endorsement or permit issued by another state authorizes the permittee or endorsee to carry a concealed firearm on or about his or her person or vehicle throughout

⁴⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.111.1.

⁴⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.2(9).

⁵⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.1. *See also* Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 302.181.7, 571.101.7.

⁵¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.9.

⁵² *See* Mo. Rev. Stat. § 610.120. Closed records are available to law enforcement agencies for issuance or renewal of a permit to possess a firearm. *Id.*

⁵³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.8.

⁵⁴ *Id.*

Missouri.⁵⁵ However, these provisions do not permit the carrying of a concealed firearm in certain specified locations. See the [Missouri Other Location Restrictions](#) section.

⁵⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 571.030.4, 571.107.1.

Open Carrying in Missouri

No statutes in Missouri specifically prohibit the open carrying of firearms. A person may not, however, exhibit any weapon readily capable of lethal use in an angry or threatening manner in the presence of one or more persons.⁵⁶

For a comprehensive discussion of this issue, see [LCAV's policy page on the Open Carrying of Firearms in Public](#).

⁵⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.1(4).

Location Restrictions

Guns in Vehicles in Missouri

(This section was last updated December 19, 2010.)

Missouri allows a person to knowingly possess a concealable firearm in a vehicle if it is: 1) not readily accessible; 2) transported in a nonfunctioning state; or 3) unloaded and the ammunition is not readily accessible.⁵⁷ The state also permits knowing possession of a concealable firearm if the possessor is age 21 or older and is transporting the gun in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle, so long as the gun is otherwise lawfully possessed, or if he or she is traveling in a continuous journey peaceably through Missouri.⁵⁸

Missouri provides that any person who has been issued a concealed carry endorsement on a driver's license or nondriver's license may carry concealed firearms within a vehicle.⁵⁹ A concealed carry endorsement or permit issued by another state authorizes the holder to carry concealed firearms on or about his or her person or vehicle.⁶⁰

Although holders of a concealed carry endorsement are generally prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm in certain places, the holder of a concealed carry endorsement may possess a firearm in a vehicle at these places so long as the firearm is not removed from the vehicle or brandished while the vehicle is there. See the [Missouri Other Location Restrictions](#) section for a list of these places.

Any passenger who boards a bus with a dangerous or deadly weapon or other means capable of inflicting serious bodily injury concealed upon his or her person or effects without the consent of the owner of the bus, or his or her agent, lessee, or bailee, is criminally liable for a felony.⁶¹

No person may, generally, carry a firearm in or on any property, equipment, or vehicle relating to any public mass transportation system of the Bi-State Development Agency created by compact between Missouri and Illinois, without authorization from the agency.⁶²

An employer may prohibit employees or other persons from carrying a concealed firearm in vehicles owned by the employer.⁶³

⁵⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 571.030.1, 571.030.3.

⁵⁸ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 571.030.1, 571.030.3.

⁵⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.101.1.

⁶⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.1.

⁶¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 578.305.

⁶² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 70.441.1, .3(11).

⁶³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.1(15).

Guns in Schools in Missouri

Missouri prohibits the carrying of a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, into any school, onto any school bus, or onto the premises of any function or activity sponsored or sanctioned by school officials or the district school board.⁶⁴

This prohibition does not apply to any person traversing school premises for the purposes of transporting a student to or from school, or possessed by an adult for the purposes of facilitation of a school-sanctioned firearm-related event.⁶⁵ This prohibition also does not apply:

- When the possessor is transporting a firearm in a nonfunctioning state, unloaded with the ammunition not readily accessible, or when the firearm itself is not readily accessible;
- To any person with a valid concealed carry endorsement or a valid permit or endorsement to carry a concealed firearm issued by another state or political subdivision of another state;
- To persons who are engaged in a lawful act of defense; or
- To a student participating in school-sanctioned gun safety courses, or other school-sponsored firearm-related events, provided the student does not carry a firearm or other weapon readily capable of lethal use into any school, onto any school bus, or onto the premises of any other function or activity sponsored or sanctioned by school officials or the district school board.⁶⁶

In Missouri, a concealed carry endorsement does not permit the holder to carry a concealed firearm into any elementary or secondary school facility without the consent of a school official or the district school board.⁶⁷ Possession of a firearm in a vehicle on the premises of any elementary or secondary school facility is allowed as long as the firearm is not removed from the vehicle or brandished while the vehicle is on the premises.⁶⁸

In Missouri, written school discipline policies require that a school suspend, for a period not less than one year, a student who possessed a firearm at school, including but not limited to a the school playground or parking lot, or brought a firearm on a school bus or to a school activity.⁶⁹

An administrative regulation provides that, at the University of Missouri, the possession of firearms on university property is prohibited except in regularly approved programs or by university agents or employees in the line of duty.⁷⁰

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

⁶⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.1(10).

⁶⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.3.

⁶⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.1(3)-(6).

⁶⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.1(10).

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.261.5.

⁷⁰ Mo. Code Regs. Ann. tit. 6, § 250-4.010(10).

Other Location Restrictions in Missouri

Missouri prohibits any person other than the holder of a concealed carry endorsement from possessing a firearm “readily capable of lethal use” into any:

- House of worship or place where people have assembled for worship;
- Election precinct on election day; or
- Building owned or occupied by any agency of the federal or Missouri state government or state political subdivision.⁷¹

These restrictions do not apply if the firearm is: 1) not readily accessible; 2) transported in a nonfunctioning state; or 3) unloaded, and ammunition for the firearm is not readily accessible.⁷²

No person may possess a firearm in or about the premises of a correctional center, city or county jail, county correctional facility, or private prison or jail.⁷³

Subject to certain conditions, counties and municipalities in Missouri may prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms, including by concealed carry endorsement holders, in any building or portion of a building owned, leased or controlled by the county or municipality.⁷⁴ Criminal penalties may not be imposed for a violation, but the local laws may deny a violator entrance to the building, order a violator to leave the building and, if an employee of the unit of government, subject a violator to disciplinary measures.⁷⁵

A Missouri concealed carry endorsement does not authorize any person to carry a concealed firearm:

- Into any police, sheriff, or highway patrol office or station without the consent of the chief law enforcement officer in charge of that office or station;
- Within 25 feet of any polling place on any election day;
- Within any adult or juvenile detention facility or correctional institution, prison or jail;
- In a courthouse solely occupied by the circuit, appellate or supreme court, or any courtrooms, administrative offices, libraries or other rooms of any such court, whether or not such court solely occupies the building. This includes, but is not limited to, any juvenile, family, drug, or other court offices, any room or office wherein any of these courts or offices are temporarily conducting any business within their jurisdictions, and such other locations in such manner as may be specified by supreme court rule;

⁷¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 571.030.1(8), 571.030.4.

⁷² Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 571.030.3, 571.030.4.

⁷³ Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 217.360.1, 221.111.1(4).

⁷⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.1(6).

⁷⁵ *Id.*

- Into any meeting of the governing body of a unit of local government or any meeting of the general assembly or a committee of the general assembly, except that this shall not preclude a member of the body holding a valid concealed carry endorsement from carrying a concealed firearm at a meeting of the body which he or she is a member;
- In any establishment licensed to dispense intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises, which portion of the establishment is primarily devoted to that purpose, without the consent of the owner or manager. This provision shall not apply to any bona fide restaurant open to the general public having dining facilities for not less than 50 persons and that receives at least 51% of its gross annual income from the dining facilities by the sale of food. This provision does not authorize any individual who has been issued a concealed carry endorsement to possess a firearm while intoxicated;
- In any area of an airport to which access is controlled by the inspection of persons and property;
- In any place where the carrying of a firearm is prohibited by federal law;
- In any portion of a building used as a child care facility without the consent of the manager. This provision does not prohibit the operator of a child care facility in a family home from owning or possessing a firearm or a driver's license or non-driver's license containing a concealed carry endorsement;
- On any riverboat gambling operation accessible by the public without the consent of the owner or manager pursuant to rules promulgated by the state gaming commission;
- In any gated area of an amusement park;
- In any church or other place of religious worship without the consent of the minister or person or persons representing the religious organization who exercise control over the place of religious worship;
- In or on any private property whose owner has posted the premises as being off-limits to concealed firearms by means of one or more signs displayed in a conspicuous place of a minimum size of 11" by 14" with the writing in letters of not less than one inch. The owner, business or commercial lessee, manager of a private business enterprise, or any other organization, entity, or person may prohibit persons holding a concealed carry endorsement from carrying concealed firearms on the premises, and may prohibit employees, not authorized by the employer, holding a concealed carry endorsement from carrying concealed firearms on the property of the employer. If the building or premises are open to the public, the employer of the business enterprise shall post signs on or about the premises noting that carrying a concealed firearm is prohibited. An employer may prohibit employees or other persons holding a concealed carry endorsement from carrying a concealed firearm in vehicles owned by the employer;
- Within any sports arena or stadium with a seating capacity of 5,000 or more persons; or

- Into any hospital accessible by the public.⁷⁶

In addition, the general assembly, supreme court, county or municipality may, by rule, administrative regulation or ordinance, prohibit or limit the carrying of concealable firearms by endorsement holders in that portion of a building owned, leased or controlled by that unit of government (clearly identified by signs posted at the entrance to the restricted area).⁷⁷ The statute, rule or ordinance must exempt any building used for public housing by private persons, highways or rest areas, firing ranges, and private dwellings owned, leased or controlled by that unit of government from any restriction on the carrying or possession of a firearm. The statute, rule or ordinance must not specify any criminal penalty for a violation but may specify that persons violating the statute, rule or ordinance may be denied entrance to the building, ordered to leave the building and, if employees of the unit of government, be subjected to disciplinary measures for violation of the provisions of the statute, rule or ordinance.⁷⁸

For nearly all of the location restrictions listed above under Missouri Revised Statutes § 571.107.1, possession of a firearm in a vehicle on the premises of the specific location is not a criminal offense so long as the firearm is not removed from the vehicle or brandished while the vehicle is on the premises.⁷⁹

⁷⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.1.

⁷⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.1(6).

⁷⁸ *Id.*

⁷⁹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.1. For penalties for violation of these location restrictions, see Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.107.2.

Consumer & Child Safety

Missouri Design Safety Standards for Handguns

Missouri does not specifically regulate junk guns or unsafe firearms. According to research conducted by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence (now Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence), Missouri's Attorney General may have the authority to regulate "junk guns," as well as promulgate other firearm safety standards.⁸⁰

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

⁸⁰ Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, Missouri Revised Statutes § 407.010 *et seq.* For details, see Legal Action Project, Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, *Targeting Safety* (2001), at <http://www.bradycenter.org/xshare/pdf/reports/targetingsafety.pdf>.

Locking Devices in Missouri

Missouri does not require a locking device to accompany the sale of a firearm, although [federal law](#) applies, and no Missouri statutes 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 Missouri

Missouri does not require firearms to be personalized.

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

Missouri Child Access Prevention

Missouri prohibits any person from recklessly selling, leasing, loaning, giving away or delivering a firearm to a person under age 18 without the consent of the child's custodial parent or guardian.⁸¹

State administrative regulations may govern the safe storage of firearms in other locations.

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

⁸¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.060.1(2).

Classes of Weapons / Ammunition

Assault Weapons in Missouri

Missouri has no law regulating assault weapons.

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

Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines in Missouri

Missouri has no law regulating large capacity ammunition magazines.

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

Fifty Caliber Rifles in Missouri

Missouri has no law regulating fifty caliber firearms.

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

Machine Guns/Automatic Firearms in Missouri

Missouri prohibits the knowing possession, sale, manufacture, transportation or repair of a machine gun, if the possession, sale, manufacture, transportation or repair is “in violation of federal law.”⁸² However, federal law generally allows private citizens to acquire and possess machine guns manufactured prior to May 19, 1986 so long as they are registered.

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

⁸² Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.020.1(7). Missouri defines a machine gun as any firearm that is capable of firing more than one shot automatically, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.010(14). See also Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.080 (making a violation of [18 U.S.C. § 922\(b\)](#) a state crime). [18 U.S.C. § 922\(b\)\(4\)](#) refers to the transfer of machine guns.

Non-Powder Guns in Missouri

Missouri prohibits any person from knowingly possessing on his or her person a “projectile weapon” when such weapon is readily capable of lethal use, he or she is intoxicated, and the person handles or otherwise uses the projectile weapon in either a negligent or unlawful manner.⁸³ A “projectile weapon” is defined to include a pellet gun or other weapon that is not a firearm but is capable of expelling a projectile that could inflict serious physical injury or death by striking or piercing a person.⁸⁴

[In 2011, Missouri enacted a law](#) authorizing a municipality to regulate the shooting of pneumatic guns within its boundaries when the municipality is, in the opinion of the governing body, so heavily populated that such conduct is dangerous to the inhabitants thereof. The municipality may require supervision by a parent, guardian, or other adult supervisor who is approved by a parent or guardian, of any minor below age 12 in all uses of pneumatic guns on public property.

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

⁸³ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.030.1(5).

⁸⁴ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.010(15).

Missouri Ammunition Regulation

Missouri prohibits the knowing possession, manufacture, transportation, repair or sale of a bullet or projectile that explodes or detonates on impact due to an independent explosive charge after being discharged from a firearm.⁸⁵

Missouri prohibits anyone from recklessly selling, leasing, loaning, giving away or delivering ammunition to a person who is intoxicated.⁸⁶

Missouri makes it a violation of state law for anyone to violate the federal law prohibiting a person under age 18 from possessing handgun ammunition and prohibiting the sale or transfer of handgun ammunition to a person under age 18.⁸⁷

See the section entitled [Firearms Trafficking in Missouri](#) regarding a law prohibiting certain illegal sales of ammunition.

Missouri does **not**:

- Require a license for the sale of ammunition;
- Ensure that persons purchasing ammunition have a license or permit;
- Require sellers of ammunition to maintain a record of the purchasers;
- Prohibit [persons who are ineligible to possess firearms under state law](#) from possessing ammunition,⁸⁸ although the [federal ammunition purchaser prohibitions](#) apply; or
- Prohibit armor-piercing ammunition, although the [federal prohibition on certain kinds of armor-piercing ammunition](#) applies.⁸⁹

⁸⁵ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.020.1(8).

⁸⁶ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.060.1(2).

⁸⁷ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.080 (referring to [18 U.S.C. § 922\(x\)](#)).

⁸⁸ Although Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.060.1(1) penalizes anyone who knowingly sells, leases, loans, gives away or delivers ammunition to any person who, under Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.070, is not lawfully entitled to possess such, Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.070 does not prohibit the possession of ammunition by any individual.

⁸⁹ Missouri prohibits the possession or use of armor-piercing ammunition in the commission or attempted commission of a crime. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.150.

Crime Gun Investigation

Microstamping/Ballistic Identification in Missouri

Missouri has no laws regarding firearm microstamping or ballistic identification.

See [Regulating Guns in America: Ballistic Identification](#) and LCAV's policy page on [Firearm Microstamping](#) for comprehensive discussions of these issues.

Firearms Trafficking in Missouri

[In 2011, Missouri enacted a law](#) making it the crime of fraudulent purchase of a firearm if a person:

- Knowingly solicits, persuades, encourages or entices a licensed dealer or private seller of firearms or ammunition to transfer a firearm or ammunition under circumstances which the person knows would violate Missouri or federal law;
- Provides to a licensed dealer or private seller of firearms or ammunition what the person knows to be materially false information with intent to deceive the dealer or seller about the legality of a transfer of a firearm or ammunition; or
- Willfully procures another to violate either of these provisions.⁹⁰

Missouri does not otherwise regulate firearms trafficking.

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

⁹⁰ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 571.063.

Missouri State Links

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

[Missouri Attorney General](#)