



Nevada

Summary of State Firearms Law

Last updated March 6, 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. Nevada ranked 18th out of 50 – having enacted few gun violence prevention laws. Among other things, Nevada:

- Requires that persons subject to a [domestic violence](#) protective order surrender to law enforcement, sell or transfer any firearm in that person's possession, custody or control;
- Submits a variety of [mental health records](#) to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System for use in firearm purchaser checks; and
- Provides that the Nevada Department of Public Safety may conduct a [background check](#) for a firearm transfer between private parties if a private seller so requests it for a prospective purchaser.

Nevada does **not**, however:

- *Require* a background check prior to [the transfer of a firearm between private parties](#);
- Prohibit the transfer or possession of [assault weapons](#), [50 caliber rifles](#) or [large capacity ammunition magazines](#);
- [License](#) firearm owners;
- Require the [registration of firearms](#);
- Limit the [number of firearms](#) that may be purchased at one time;
- Impose a [waiting period](#) on firearm purchases; or
- Regulate [unsafe handguns](#).

Nevada Statistics

Gun Deaths in Nevada

Nevada ranks 5th among the states in number of gun deaths per capita. In 2009, 406 people died from firearm-related injuries in Nevada.¹

Crime Guns in Nevada

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, [Nevada](#) supplied the 9th highest number of crime guns to other states per capita. Nevada exports more crime guns than it imports.²

Number of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in Nevada

There are 496 federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in Nevada.³

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

State “Right to Bear Arms” in Nevada

The Nevada Constitution provides for the keeping and bearing of arms, but permits the regulation of firearms 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 Nevada

Nevada 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

Nevada 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.

Similarly, Nevada prohibits any person from owning or possessing a firearm if he or she:

- Has been convicted of a felony in Nevada, any other state, or under federal law;
- Is a fugitive from justice;
- Is an unlawful user of, or addicted to, any controlled substance;
- Has been adjudicated mentally ill or has been committed to any mental health facility; or
- Is illegally or unlawfully in the United States.⁴

Firearm transfers by private sellers (non-firearms dealers) are not subject to background checks in Nevada, although federal and state purchaser prohibitions still apply. Nevada does, however, provide that a private person who wishes to transfer a firearm may request that the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History perform a background check on the transferee. See the [Nevada Private Sales](#) section for further information.

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

⁴ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.360\(1\), \(2\)](#).

Nevada Minimum Age to Purchase / Possess

Nevada prohibits a child (person under age 18) from handling or possessing any firearm except while accompanied by or under the immediate charge of a parent, guardian, or adult authorized to have control or custody of the child.⁵

Under certain circumstances, children who are 14 years of age or older may possess firearms without the presence of a parent, guardian or other adult.⁶ Generally, a child who has a valid license to hunt and the permission of his or her parent or guardian may possess a rifle or shotgun (that is not fully automatic).⁷ Parental permission alone is sufficient where the child is attending a hunting or firearm safety course, using a firearm at an established range or where the discharge of firearms is permitted, participating in a lawful competition or performance, traveling to or from such activities, on real property under the control of an adult, with the permission of that adult, or at his or her residence.⁸

The same exceptions apply to handgun possession, as long as the child has the written permission of his or her parent or guardian and is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun.⁹

Finally, a child under age 18 may not handle or have in his or her possession or under his or her control a loaded firearm if he or she is:

- An occupant of a motor vehicle;
- Within any residence, including his or her residence, or any building other than a facility licensed for target practice, unless possession of the firearm is necessary for the immediate defense of the child or another person; or
- Within an area designated by a county or municipal ordinance as a populated area for the purpose of prohibiting the discharge of weapons, unless he or she is within a facility licensed for target practice.¹⁰

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

⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(1\).](#)

⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(5\)-\(7\).](#)

⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(5\)\(a\).](#)

⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(6\).](#)

⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(7\).](#)

¹⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(8\).](#)

Domestic Violence and Firearms in Nevada

(This section was last updated March 3, 2011.)

Firearm Prohibitions for Domestic Violence Misdemeanants

Nevada has no law prohibiting individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors from purchasing or possessing firearms or ammunition. [Federal law](#), however, prohibits the purchase and possession of firearms and ammunition by certain domestic abusers.

Firearm Prohibitions for Persons Subject to Domestic Violence Restraining/Protective Orders

In Nevada, a court may include in an extended order for protection against domestic violence a requirement that prohibits the adverse party from possessing or having under his or her control any firearm while the order is in effect.¹¹ An extended order may be issued when a court is satisfied that specific facts demonstrate that an act of domestic violence occurred or a threat of domestic violence exists, and after the court provides notice to the adverse party and holds a hearing on the application for an order of protection.¹²

In determining whether to include this provision in an extended order, a court must consider whether the adverse party:

- Has a documented history of domestic violence;
- Has used or threatened to use a firearm to injure or harass the applicant, a minor child or any other person; and
- Has used a firearm in the commission or attempted commission of any crime.¹³

A court that includes this restriction in an extended order may also include a limited exception allowing possession or control of a firearm if:

- The adverse party establishes that he or she is employed by an employer who requires the adverse party to use or possess a firearm as an integral part of the adverse party's employment; and
- The employer will provide storage for any such firearm during any period when the adverse party is not working.¹⁴

¹¹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.031\(1\)\(b\).](#)

¹² [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.020\(1\), \(3\).](#)

¹³ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.031\(2\).](#)

¹⁴ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.031\(3\).](#)

Removal or Surrender of Firearms When Domestic Violence Restraining/Protective Orders Are Issued

In Nevada, a court may include in an extended order for protection against domestic violence a requirement that the adverse party surrender to law enforcement, or sell or transfer, any firearm in that person's possession, custody or control.¹⁵ An extended order may be issued when a court is satisfied that specific facts demonstrate that an act of domestic violence occurred or a threat of domestic violence exists, and after the court provides notice to the adverse party and holds a hearing on the application for an order of protection.¹⁶

If a court orders an adverse party to surrender any firearm, that person must, not later than 24 hours after service of the order:

- Surrender any firearms to the appropriate local law enforcement agency designated by the court in the order;
- Surrender any firearms to a person designated by the court in the order; or
- Sell or transfer any firearms to a licensed firearm dealer.¹⁷

If there is probable cause to believe that the adverse party has not surrendered, sold or transferred any firearm in his or her possession, custody or control within 24 hours after service of the order, the court may issue and deliver to any law enforcement officer a search warrant which authorizes law enforcement to enter and search any place where there is probable cause to believe any firearm is located and seize the firearm.¹⁸

In determining whether to require an adverse party to surrender his or her firearms for the duration of the extended protective order, a court must consider whether the adverse party:

- Has a documented history of domestic violence;
- Has used or threatened to use a firearm to injure or harass the applicant, a minor child or any other person; and
- Has used a firearm in the commission or attempted commission of any crime.¹⁹

A court that includes this restriction in an extended order may also include a limited exception allowing possession or control of a firearm if:

¹⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.031\(1\)\(a\).](#)

¹⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.020\(1\), \(3\).](#)

¹⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.033\(1\).](#)

¹⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.033\(5\).](#) For additional information on the firearms surrender process, *see* [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.033\(2\)-\(4\), \(6\).](#)

¹⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.031\(2\).](#)

- The adverse party establishes that he or she is employed by an employer who requires the adverse party to use or possess a firearm as an integral part of the adverse party's employment; and
- The employer will provide storage for any such firearm during any period when the adverse party is not working.²⁰

Removal or Surrender of Firearms at the Scene of a Domestic Violence Incident

Nevada does not authorize or require the removal of firearms or ammunition at the scene of a domestic violence incident.

Reporting of Domestic Violence Information for Use in Firearm Purchaser Background Checks

In Nevada, any time a court issues a temporary or extended order for protection against domestic violence, and any time that a person serves such an order, registers such an order or receives any information or takes any other action pursuant to Nevada law relating to orders for protection, the court or individual must transmit any information required by the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History in a manner which ensures that the information is received by the Central Repository by the end of the next business day.²¹

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

²⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.031\(3\)](#).

²¹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 33.095](#).

Disarming Prohibited Persons in Nevada

(This section was last updated March 3, 2011.)

The only laws in Nevada requiring the surrender or removal of firearms from persons who have become prohibited from possessing them are those addressing domestic violence abusers subject to protective orders. See the [Nevada Domestic Violence & Firearms](#) section for further information.

Sales & Transfers

Nevada 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.)

Nevada is a point of contact state for firearm purchaser background checks. In Nevada, the Nevada Department of Public Safety (NDPS), through its Brady Point of Sale program, serves as the state point of contact for implementation of the Brady Act.²² Licensed dealers must process each firearm transfer through NDPS, which in turn uses NICS and other databases to verify that prospective purchasers are not prohibited from possessing a firearm.²³

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

²² 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 Mar. 6, 2012).

²³ For more information on the Point of Sale program, visit the [Nevada Department of Public Safety’s Point of Sale program](#) page.

Mental Health Reporting in Nevada

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.”²⁴ 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.

Nevada requires that a court make a record and transmit the record to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History (Central Repository), along with a statement that the record is being transmitted for inclusion in each appropriate NICS database, whenever a court or other trier of fact where applicable: 1) accepts a plea of guilty but mentally ill in a criminal case;²⁵ 2) finds a criminal defendant guilty but mentally ill;²⁶ 3) accepts a verdict acquitting a criminal defendant by reason of insanity;²⁷ 4) finds a criminal defendant incompetent;²⁸ 5) issues an order involuntarily admitting a person to a public or private mental health facility;²⁹ or 6) finds that a proposed ward is a person with a mental defect.³⁰

The Central Repository, upon receiving any of these records, must take reasonable steps to ensure that the information reported in the record is included in each appropriate NICS database.³¹ Any record of a person’s mental health included in the Central Repository is confidential, not considered a public record, and may not be used for any purpose other than for inclusion in NICS.³²

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

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

²⁴ [18 U.S.C. § 922\(d\)\(4\)](#).

²⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 174.035\(8\)](#).

²⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 175.533\(3\)](#).

²⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 175.539\(4\)](#).

²⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 178.425\(6\)](#).

²⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 433A.310\(4\)](#).

³⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 159.0593\(1\)](#).

³¹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 179A.163\(1\)](#).

³² [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 179A.165\(1\)](#).

Multiple Purchases / Sales of Firearms in Nevada

Nevada 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 Nevada

Nevada has no laws requiring the retention of firearm sales or background check records by firearm sellers, or requiring the reporting of sales of firearms to state or local law enforcement.

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

Nevada Waiting Periods

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

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

Gun Dealers & Other Sellers

Nevada Dealer Regulations

Nevada does not license firearms dealers. However, firearms dealers are subject to state laws governing gun sales generally. See the [Nevada 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. For additional information, see the [Nevada Background Checks](#) section.

Federally licensed firearms dealers or collectors who purchase secondhand firearms or related items at certain shows or exhibits must comply with state recordkeeping,³³ reports of transactions,³⁴ and retention of marked or individually identified property³⁵ requirements that apply to all dealers in junk or secondhand materials.³⁶

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

³³ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.110.](#)

³⁴ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.120.](#)

³⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.130.](#)

³⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.018\(2\), 647.105.](#)

Private Sales in Nevada

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

Nevada provides that a private person who wishes to transfer a firearm may request that the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History (Central Repository) perform a background check on the transferee.³⁷

Upon receiving such a request (along with the purchaser's identifying information), the Central Repository must, within five business days of receiving the request:

- Perform a background check on the prospective transferee; and
- Notify the requestor whether the transferee is prohibited by federal or state law from acquiring a firearm.³⁸

If the requestor does not receive notification from the Central Repository regarding the request within five business days, he or she may presume that the person who wishes to acquire the firearm is not a prohibited purchaser.³⁹ The Central Repository may charge a reasonable fee for performing a background check and notifying a person of the results of the background check.⁴⁰

Failure of a person to request that the Central Repository perform a background check before transferring a firearm to another person does not give rise to any civil cause of action.⁴¹

In addition, any person who sells or barter a handgun to a child under age 18, "with reckless disregard of whether the child is under the age of 18 years, or with knowledge or reason to know that the child is under the age of 18 years," is criminally liable for a felony.⁴²

Licensed firearms dealers or collectors who purchase secondhand firearms or related items at certain shows or exhibits must comply with state recordkeeping,⁴³ transaction reporting,⁴⁴ and retention of marked or individually identified property⁴⁵ requirements that apply to all dealers in secondhand materials.⁴⁶

In Nevada, a person may not sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to another person if the seller or transferor has "actual knowledge" that the person:

³⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.254\(1\).](#)

³⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.254\(3\).](#)

³⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.254\(4\).](#)

⁴⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.254\(5\).](#)

⁴¹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.254\(6\).](#)

⁴² [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.310.](#)

⁴³ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.110.](#)

⁴⁴ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.120.](#)

⁴⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.130.](#)

⁴⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 647.018\(2\), 647.105.](#)

- Is under indictment for, or has been convicted of, a felony in Nevada, any other state, or under federal law;
- Is a fugitive from justice;
- Has been adjudicated as mentally ill or has been committed to any mental health facility;
or
- Is illegally or unlawfully in the United States.⁴⁷

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

⁴⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.362\(1\)](#).

Nevada Gun Shows

Nevada has no laws regulating gun shows.

See the [Nevada 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.

Nevada Immunity Statutes

(This section was last updated March 3, 2011.)

Nevada law provides that:

[T]he State of Nevada is the only governmental entity in this state that may commence a lawsuit against a manufacturer or distributor of a firearm or ammunition or a trade association related to firearms or ammunition for damages, abatement or injunctive relief resulting from or relating to the lawful design or manufacture of a firearm or ammunition or the marketing or sale of a firearm or ammunition to the public.⁴⁸

Local governments may sue manufacturers or distributors of a firearm or ammunition for breach of contract or warranty concerning a firearm or ammunition purchased by the entity.⁴⁹

Nevada law also provides that "[n]o person has a cause of action against the manufacturer or distributor of any firearm or ammunition merely because the firearm or ammunition was capable of causing serious injury, damage or death, was discharged and proximately caused serious injury, damage or death."⁵⁰

This limitation does not affect a cause of action based upon a defect in design or production.⁵¹ The capability of a firearm or ammunition to cause serious injury, damage or death when discharged does not make the product defective in design.⁵²

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.

⁴⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 12.107\(1\)](#).

⁴⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 12.107\(2\)](#).

⁵⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 41.131\(1\)](#).

⁵¹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 41.131\(2\)](#).

⁵² *Id.*

Gun Owner Responsibilities

Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers in Nevada

Nevada 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.

Registration of Firearms in Nevada

Nevada 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 Nevada

Nevada 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

Nevada Concealed Weapons Permitting

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

Nevada is a “shall issue” state, meaning that local law enforcement must issue a concealed firearm permit if the applicant meets certain qualifications.

Any person who is a resident of Nevada may apply to the sheriff of the county in which he or she resides for a concealed firearm permit.⁵³ The sheriff must issue a permit to carry revolvers, semi-automatic firearms, or both types of firearms, to any person qualified to possess each such firearm, who:

- Is 21 years of age or older;
- Is not prohibited from possessing a firearm;⁵⁴ and
- Demonstrates competence with the type of firearm for which the applicant seeks to be licensed by presenting a certificate or other documentation to the sheriff which shows that he or she successfully completed an approved course in firearm safety, including instruction in the use of each firearm to which the application pertains and in the laws of Nevada relating to the use of a firearm.⁵⁵

The sheriff must deny an application or revoke an existing permit if he or she determines that the applicant or permittee:

- Has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest;
- Has been judicially declared incompetent or insane;
- Has been voluntarily or involuntarily admitted to a mental health facility during the immediately preceding five years;
- Has habitually used intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance to the extent that his or her normal faculties are impaired;
- Has been convicted of a crime involving the use or threatened use of force or violence punishable as a misdemeanor during the immediately preceding three years;
- Has been convicted of a felony in Nevada, any other state, or under federal law;

⁵³ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3657\(1\)](#). Any person who is not a resident may apply for a permit to the sheriff of any county in the state. *Id.*

⁵⁴ See [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.360](#) and the Nevada Background Checks section.

⁵⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3657\(3\)](#).

- Has been convicted of a crime involving domestic violence or stalking, or is currently subject to a restraining order, injunction or other order for protection against domestic violence;
- Is currently on parole or probation;
- Has, within the immediately preceding five years, been subject to any requirements imposed by a court as a condition to the court's withholding of the entry of judgment for his or her conviction of a felony, or suspension of his or her sentence for the conviction of a felony; or
- Has made a false statement on any application for a concealed firearm permit or for the renewal of a permit.⁵⁶

In addition, the sheriff may deny an application or revoke a permit if he or she receives a “sworn affidavit stating articulable facts based upon personal knowledge” from any person 18 years of age or older that the applicant or permittee is prohibited from possessing a permit.⁵⁷ In addition, if the sheriff receives notification from a court or law enforcement agency that a permittee or applicant has been charged with a crime involving the use or threatened use of force or violence, the conviction for which would require the revocation of a permit or preclude the issuance of a permit, the sheriff must suspend the person’s permit or the processing of his or her application until the final disposition of the charges.⁵⁸

The fee for a permit is set by the issuing sheriff, but may not exceed \$60.⁵⁹

Sheriffs have the authority to issue temporary permits.⁶⁰ For every temporary permit issued, the sheriff must provide information concerning the permit and the person to whom it has been issued to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History.⁶¹

Nevada prohibits any person from carrying concealed upon his or her person any firearm without a valid permit issued under state law.⁶²

Firearm Safety Training

Applicants for a concealed firearm permit must demonstrate competence with the type of weapon that the applicant seeks to carry (i.e., revolvers, semiautomatic firearms, or both revolvers and semiautomatic firearms), by presenting a certificate or other documentation to the sheriff which shows that the applicant:

⁵⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3657\(4\).](#)

⁵⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3657\(5\).](#)

⁵⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3657\(6\).](#)

⁵⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3657\(7\)\(i\).](#) Additional application requirements and the background check investigation process are outlined under [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 202.3657\(7\)](#) and [202.366](#).

⁶⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3687.](#)

⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶² [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.350\(1\)\(d\)\(3\).](#)

- Successfully completed a course in firearm safety approved by a sheriff in Nevada; or
- Successfully completed a course in firearm safety offered by a federal, state or local law enforcement agency, community college, university or national organization that certifies instructors in firearm safety.⁶³

The course must include specific instruction in the use of the type of firearm for which a permit is sought, as well as instruction on Nevada’s laws relating to the use of a firearm. A sheriff may not approve a course in firearm safety unless the sheriff determines that the course meets any standards that are established by the Nevada Sheriffs’ and Chiefs’ Association.⁶⁴

Duration & Renewal

A concealed firearm permit expires roughly five years from the date of issuance or renewal, the expiration date being the permittee’s birthday nearest the date of issuance or renewal.⁶⁵

Disclosure or Use of Information

Generally, an application for a concealed firearm permit, all information contained within that application, and all information provided to a sheriff or obtained by a sheriff in the course of his or her investigation, are confidential.⁶⁶ Any records regarding an applicant or permittee may be released to a law enforcement agency for the purpose of conducting an investigation or prosecution, and statistical abstracts of data compiled by a sheriff, including, but not limited to, the number of applications received and permits issued, may be released to any person.⁶⁷

Reciprocity

On or before July 1 of each year, the Nevada Department of Public Safety must:

- Examine the requirements for the issuance of a permit to carry a concealed firearm in every state to determine whether the requirements of other states are substantially similar to or more stringent than Nevada’s concealed weapons permitting requirements;
- Determine whether each state has an electronic database which identifies each individual who possesses a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm that a Nevada law enforcement officer may access at all times through a national law enforcement telecommunications system; and
- Prepare a list of states that meet the aforementioned requirements and provide the list to each law enforcement agency in Nevada.⁶⁸

⁶³ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3657\(2\), \(3\)](#).

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.366\(4\)](#). See [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3677](#) for renewal provisions.

⁶⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3662](#).

⁶⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3662 \(2\), \(3\)](#).

⁶⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3689\(1\)](#). The Department of Public Safety shall, upon request, make the list of states with which Nevada has reciprocity available to the public. [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3689\(2\)](#).

A person who possesses a permit to carry a concealed firearm issued by a state included in the list may carry a concealed firearm in Nevada in accordance with Nevada's concealed firearm permitting laws.⁶⁹ A person who possesses a permit to carry a concealed firearm that was issued by a state included in the list may not carry a concealed firearm in Nevada if the person:

- Becomes a Nevada resident; and
- Has not been issued a permit from the sheriff of the county in which he or she resides within 60 days after becoming a Nevada resident.⁷⁰

⁶⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3688\(1\), \(3\).](#)

⁷⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3688\(2\).](#)

Open Carrying in Nevada

Nevada does not prohibit the [open carrying of firearms](#) in public.

Location Restrictions

Guns in Vehicles in Nevada

(This section was last updated March 3, 2011.)

Nevada generally prohibits any person from carrying a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun in or on any vehicle which is standing on or along, or is being driven on or along, any public highway or any other way open to the public.⁷¹ Nevada law is silent regarding the possession of other firearms in vehicles.

⁷¹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 503.165\(1\)](#).

Guns in Schools in Nevada

Nevada prohibits any person from carrying or possessing a firearm on the property of the Nevada System of Higher Education (state university and college system), a private or public school or child care facility, or while in a vehicle of a private or public school or child care facility.⁷²

Nevada prohibits concealed firearms permittees from carrying a concealed firearm while on the premises of a public building located on the property of a public school, a child care facility, or the property of the Nevada System of Higher Education, without specific written permission.⁷³

This prohibition does not restrict the possession of a firearm on the property of a private or public school or child care facility by a: 1) peace officer; 2) school security guard; or 3) person having written permission from the president of a branch or facility of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the principal of the private or public school, or the person designated by a child care facility to give permission to carry or possess the firearm. The possession of a firearm is also permissible at a child care facility located at or in the home of a natural person by the person who owns or operates the facility, as long as the person resides in the home and complies with any laws governing the possession of such a weapon.⁷⁴

In Nevada, any pupil found in possession of a firearm while on the premises of any public school, at an activity sponsored by a public school or on any school bus must be expelled for a period of not less than one year.⁷⁵ The student may be placed in another kind of school for a period not to exceed the period of the expulsion. The superintendent of schools of a school district may, for good cause shown in a particular case, allow a modification, set forth in writing, to the expulsion requirement.⁷⁶

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

⁷² [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.265\(1\)\(e\).](#)

⁷³ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3673\(3\)\(a\).](#)

⁷⁴ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.265\(3\).](#)

⁷⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.466\(2\).](#)

⁷⁶ *Id.*

Other Nevada Location Restrictions

Nevada provides that a concealed firearm permittee may carry a concealed firearm while he or she is on the premises of any public building other than:

- A public airport;
- A public school, child care facility, or property of the Nevada System of Higher Education (unless the permittee has obtained written permission to carry a concealed firearm while on the premises); or
- A public building that has a metal detector at each public entrance or a sign posted at each public entrance indicating that no firearms are allowed in the building (with limited exceptions for judges, prosecuting attorneys, employees working in that public building, or those with the written permission of a person in control of the public building).⁷⁷

Nevada generally prohibits any person from interfering in the legislative process by willfully possessing any firearm in the state legislative building or any other place where the legislature conducts its business.⁷⁸

Nevada has no statutes prohibiting firearms in the following places, although administrative regulations may apply:

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

⁷⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.3673\(1\)-\(4\)](#).

⁷⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 218A.905\(8\)](#). [Nev. Admin. Code § 202.020](#) lists other locations where a permittee is not allowed to carry a concealed firearm, including: 1) any facility of a law enforcement agency; 2) a prison, county or city jail or detention facility; 3) a courthouse or courtroom; 4) any other building owned or occupied by the Federal Government, Nevada or a local government; or 5) any other place in which the carrying of a concealed firearm is prohibited by state or federal law.

Consumer & Child Safety

Design Safety Standards for Handguns in Nevada

Nevada 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 Nevada

Nevada does not require a locking device to accompany the sale of a firearm, and no state 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 Nevada

Nevada does not require firearms to be personalized.

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

Nevada Child Access Prevention

Nevada prohibits any person from aiding or knowingly permitting a “child” (person under age 18) to handle or possess any firearm, except while accompanied by or under the immediate charge of a parent, guardian, or adult authorized to have control or custody of the child.⁷⁹ The penalty rises to a felony if an individual violates this prohibition and knows or has reason to know that there is a substantial risk that the child will use the firearm to commit a violent act.⁸⁰

A person does not aid or knowingly permit a child to violate this prohibition if:

- The firearm was stored in a securely locked container or at a location which a reasonable person would have believed to be secure;
- The child obtained the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry by any person in or upon the premises where the firearm was stored;
- The injury or death resulted from an accident which was incident to target shooting, sport shooting or hunting; or
- The child gained possession of the firearm from a member of the military or a law enforcement officer, while the member or officer was performing his or her official duties.⁸¹

Nevada also provides that if a parent, guardian or other person legally responsible for a minor under age 18:

- Knowing that the minor has previously been adjudicated delinquent or has been convicted of a criminal offense;
- Knowing that the minor has a propensity to commit violent acts; or
- Knowing or having reason to know that the minor intends to use the firearm for unlawful purposes,

permits the minor to use or possess a firearm, any negligence or willful misconduct of the minor in connection with such use or possession is imputed to the person who permits such gun use or possession for all purposes of civil damages, and is jointly and severally liable with the minor for any and all civil damages caused by such negligence or willful misconduct.⁸²

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

⁷⁹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(1\), \(2\).](#)

⁸⁰ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(2\)\(b\), \(c\).](#)

⁸¹ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.300\(3\).](#)

⁸² [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 41.472\(1\).](#)

Classes of Weapons / Ammunition

Assault Weapons in Nevada

Nevada 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 Nevada

Nevada 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 Nevada

Nevada 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

(This section was last updated March 3, 2011.)

Nevada generally prohibits the manufacture or causing to be manufactured, importation into Nevada, keeping, offering or exposing for sale, or giving, lending, possession or use of a machine gun, unless authorized by federal law.⁸³

Federal law generally allows the possession of 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.

⁸³ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.350\(1\)\(b\)](#).

Non-Powder Guns in Nevada

(This section was last updated March 3, 2011.)

Nevada has no laws regulating non-powder guns.

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

Ammunition Regulation in Nevada

Nevada does **not**:

- Require a license for the sale of ammunition;
- Obligate ammunition purchasers to obtain a license; or
- Require sellers of ammunition to maintain a record of the purchasers.

Regulation of Unreasonably Dangerous Ammunition

Nevada prohibits the manufacture or sale of any “metal-penetrating bullet” capable of being fired from a handgun.⁸⁴ A “metal-penetrating bullet” means a bullet whose core reduces the normal expansion of the bullet upon impact, and is at least as hard as the maximum hardness attainable using solid red metal alloys, and that can be used in a handgun.⁸⁵

Persons Prohibited from Purchasing/Possessing Ammunition

In Nevada, a person may not sell or otherwise dispose of any ammunition to another person if the seller or transferor has “actual knowledge” that the person:

- Is under indictment for, or has been convicted of, a felony in Nevada, any other state, or under federal law;
- Is a fugitive from justice;
- Has been adjudicated as mentally ill or has been committed to any mental health facility; or
- Is illegally or unlawfully in the United States.⁸⁶

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

⁸⁴ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.273\(1\).](#)

⁸⁵ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.273\(4\).](#)

⁸⁶ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.362\(1\).](#)

Crime Gun Investigation

Microstamping/Ballistic Identification in Nevada

Nevada 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.

Nevada Firearms Trafficking

(This section was last updated March 3, 2011.)

Nevada prohibits any person from intentionally changing, altering, removing or obliterating the serial number on any firearm.⁸⁷ Moreover, a person must not knowingly possess a firearm on which the serial number has been intentionally changed, altered, removed or obliterated.⁸⁸

See [LCAV's policy page on Firearms Trafficking](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

⁸⁷ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.277\(1\).](#)

⁸⁸ [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 202.277\(2\).](#)

State Links

[Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives \(ATF\), San Francisco Field Division \(Northern CA & NV\)](#)

[Office of the Attorney General/Nevada Department of Justice](#)