



New Mexico

Summary of State Firearms Law

Last updated April 20, 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. New Mexico ranked 45th out of 50 – having enacted few gun violence prevention laws. Among other things, New Mexico does **not**:

- 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 or significantly regulate [firearms dealers](#);
- Limit the [number of firearms](#) that may be purchased at one time;
- [License](#) firearm owners;
- Require the [registration of firearms](#);
- Prohibit individuals convicted of [domestic violence](#) misdemeanors or subject to domestic violence protective or restraining orders from purchasing or possessing firearms;
- Impose a [waiting period](#) on firearm purchases; or
- Regulate [unsafe handguns](#).

Statistics

Gun Deaths in New Mexico

New Mexico ranks 9th among the states in number of gun deaths per capita. In 2009, 289 people died from firearm-related injuries in New Mexico.¹

Crime Guns in New Mexico

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 [New Mexico](#) supplied the 17th highest number of crime guns to other states per capita. New Mexico exports more crime guns than it imports.²

Number of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in New Mexico

There are 581 federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in New Mexico.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. (Mar. 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* (Mar. 2012), at <http://www.atf.gov/about/foia/ffl-list.html>.

New Mexico “Right to Bear Arms”

The New Mexico Constitution provides for the keeping and bearing of arms, but permits 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 New Mexico

New Mexico has generally 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.

To view the sections of the New Mexico Statutes provided in the text below, search for the citation at the [New Mexico Statutes Annotated](#) website.

Persons Prohibited from Firearm Possession

New Mexico 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.

New Mexico prohibits convicted felons from receiving, possessing or transporting a firearm within ten years of completing a sentence or probation.⁴ New Mexico also prohibits any person under age 19 from knowingly possessing or transporting a handgun.⁵

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

⁴ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-16(A), (C)(2).

⁵ N. M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.2.

New Mexico Minimum Age to Purchase / Possess

New Mexico prohibits any person under age 19 from knowingly possessing or transporting a handgun.⁶ Exceptions to this prohibition include:

- Attending a hunter's safety course or handgun safety course;
- Target shooting at an authorized shooting range or an area where the discharge of a handgun without legal justification is not prohibited by law;
- Competing in an organized handgun shooting competition;
- Participating in or practicing for a performance by a [26 U.S.C. § 501\(c\)\(3\)](#) organization;
- Legally hunting or trapping;
- Traveling with an unloaded handgun to or from an activity listed above; or
- Possessing a handgun on real property under the control and supervision of the parent, grandparent or guardian of the underage individual.⁷

There is no minimum age to possess rifles and shotguns in New Mexico.

State law prohibits any person under age 18 from hunting with a firearm unless he or she is in possession of a certificate indicating successful completion of a state-approved hunter training course.⁸

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

⁶ N. M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.2.

⁷ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.2(A).

⁸ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 17-2-33.

Domestic Violence and Firearms in New Mexico

(This section was last updated March 15, 2011.)

New Mexico 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
- Authorize or require the removal of firearms or ammunition at the scene of a domestic violence incident.

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

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

Disarming Prohibited Persons in New Mexico

(This section was last updated March 15, 2011.)

In New Mexico, a handgun possessed or transported by a person under age 19, in violation of state law prohibiting the knowingly possessing or transporting a handgun,⁹ is subject to seizure and forfeiture by law enforcement.¹⁰

New Mexico has no other laws requiring the surrender or removal of firearms from [persons who have become prohibited from possessing them](#).

⁹ See N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.2.

¹⁰ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.3.

Sales & Transfers

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

New Mexico is not a point of contact state for NICS. New Mexico has no law requiring firearms dealers to initiate background check prior to purchasing a firearm. In New Mexico, all firearms transfers by licensed dealers are processed directly through the FBI, which enforces the federal purchaser prohibitions referenced above.¹¹

New Mexico 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.*

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

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> (last visited Mar. 2012).

Mental Health Reporting in New Mexico

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.

New Mexico has no law requiring the reporting of mental health information to NICS.

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

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

¹² [18 U.S.C. § 922\(d\)\(4\)](#).

Multiple Purchases / Sales of Firearms in New Mexico

New Mexico 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 New Mexico

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

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

New Mexico Waiting Periods

New Mexico 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

New Mexico Dealer Regulations

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

New Mexico does not require firearms dealers to obtain a state license or otherwise significantly regulate dealers. For laws:

- Applicable to both licensed and unlicensed sellers of firearms, see the [New Mexico Private Sales](#) section;
- Requiring firearms dealers to conduct a background check on the purchaser, see the [New Mexico Background Checks](#) section;
- Requiring dealers to record or report firearm sales to law enforcement, see the [New Mexico Retention of Sales / Background Checks Records](#) section.

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

Private Sales in New Mexico

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

New Mexico prohibits any person from intentionally giving to another person in custody or confinement any deadly weapon without the express consent of the officer in charge.¹³

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

¹³ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-22-12(A).

New Mexico Gun Shows

New Mexico has no laws regulating gun shows.

See the [New Mexico 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.

New Mexico Immunity Statutes

(This section was last updated March 15, 2011.)

The use or operation of a sport shooting range may not be enjoined as a nuisance on the basis of noise or noise pollution by any person who acquires an interest in real property adversely affected by the normal operation and use of a range that began operating prior to the time the person acquired the interest in real property.¹⁴

Moreover, the use or operation of a sport shooting range shall not be enjoined as a nuisance on the basis of noise or noise pollution:

- If the range is in compliance with noise control statutes, rules or ordinances that apply to the range and its operation at the time that the initial operation of the range commenced;
- Due to changes made to noise control statutes, rules or ordinances that apply to the range and its operation, if the changes take effect after the initial operation of the range commenced; or
- If noise control statutes, rules or ordinances were not in effect at the time that the original operation of the range commenced.¹⁵

The provisions of New Mexico's Sport Shooting Range Act do not apply:

- To recovery for an act or omission relating to recklessness, negligence, wanton misconduct or willful misconduct in the operation or use of a sport shooting range;
- To a nuisance action on the basis of trespass involving the operation or use of a sport shooting range;
- To the operation or use of a sport shooting range that substantially and adversely affects public health or public safety; or
- If there has been a substantial change in the primary use of a sport shooting range.¹⁶

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.

¹⁴ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 17-8-4(B).

¹⁵ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 17-8-4(A).

¹⁶ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 17-8-6.

Gun Owner Responsibilities

Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers in New Mexico

New Mexico 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 New Mexico

New Mexico 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 New Mexico

New Mexico does not require firearms 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

New Mexico Concealed Weapons Permitting

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

New Mexico is a “shall issue” state, meaning that local law enforcement must issue a concealed handgun license if the applicant meets certain qualifications. The New Mexico Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) must issue a license to an applicant who:

- Is a United States citizen;
- Is a New Mexico resident or member of the armed forces permanently stationed in New Mexico;
- Is 21 years of age or older;
- Is not a fugitive from justice;
- Is not a convicted felon or under a felony indictment;
- Is not otherwise prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing a firearm;
- Has not been adjudicated mentally incompetent or committed to a mental institution;
- Is not addicted to alcohol or controlled substances; and
- Has satisfactorily completed a firearms training course.¹⁷

State law also explicitly provides that DPS “shall deny” a concealed handgun license to an applicant who has:

- Received a conditional discharge, diversion or deferment, or has been convicted or plead guilty or plead no contest to a misdemeanor involving a crime of violence within the preceding 10 years;
- Been convicted of a misdemeanor offense involving driving while intoxicated in the preceding five years;
- Been convicted of a misdemeanor offense involving possession or abuse of a controlled substance within the preceding 10 years; or

¹⁷ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-4(A).

- Been convicted of misdemeanor assault, battery, or battery against a household member.¹⁸

New Mexico prohibits any person from carrying a concealed, loaded firearm outside his or her home, real property, or private automobile or other private conveyance without a license.¹⁹ This section does not apply, however, to a person who carries a firearm on her or his own property or to a person who carries a firearm in a private vehicle for the purpose of lawful protection.²⁰

Firearm Safety Training

New Mexico requires that concealed handgun license applicants satisfactorily complete an approved firearms training course for the category and largest caliber of handgun the applicant desires to be licensed to carry concealed before DPS will issue a license.²¹

DPS prepares and publishes minimum standards for approved training courses, which must include classroom instruction, range instruction, and an actual demonstration by the applicant of his or her ability to safely use, at a minimum, a handgun of .32 caliber.²² A training course must not be less than 15 hours in length, and must provide instruction regarding:

- Knowledge of and safe handling of single- and double-action revolvers and semiautomatic handguns;
- Safe storage of handguns and child safety;
- Safe handgun shooting fundamentals;
- Live shooting of a handgun on a firing range;
- Identification of ways to develop and maintain handgun shooting skills;
- Federal, state and local criminal and civil laws pertaining to the purchase, ownership, transportation, use and possession of handguns;
- Techniques for avoiding a criminal attack and how to control a violent confrontation; and
- Techniques for non-violent dispute resolution.

¹⁸ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-4(B).

¹⁹ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2(A).

²⁰ *Id.* An applicant for a concealed handgun license shall submit a non-refundable \$100 application fee. [N.M. Code R. § 10.8.2.12\(G\)](#). Additional concealed handguns license application requirements, as well as license suspension and revocation information, are detailed under N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 29-19-4 – 29-19-7; [N.M. Code R. §§ 10.8.2.7-15, 10.8.2.21, 10.8.2.26](#).

²¹ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-4(A)(10).

²² N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-7(A).

Approved training courses are those certified or sponsored by a federal or state law enforcement agency, a college, a firearms training school or a nationally recognized organization approved by DPS that customarily offers firearms training.²³ Every instructor of an approved training course is required to file a copy of the course description and proof of certification with DPS annually.²⁴

Duration & Renewal

Concealed handgun licenses are valid for four years from the date of issuance or renewal unless suspended or revoked.²⁵ A license may be renewed anytime until 60 calendar days after the license expires, provided that the licensee completes a four-hour refresher firearms training course prior to filing the application, and pays a \$75 renewal fee.²⁶

Disclosure or Use of Information

Information regarding the licensee received by DPS or any other law enforcement department is confidential and exempt from public disclosure in the absence of a court order to disclose the information.²⁷ The information shall be made available by DPS to a state or local law enforcement agency upon request by that agency.²⁸

Reciprocity

DPS has discretionary authority to recognize concealed handgun licenses issued by other states under certain conditions.²⁹ For a list of states whose concealed handgun licenses are recognized by New Mexico, visit [DPS's web site](#).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-7(B).

²⁵ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-3.

²⁶ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-6(F), (G).

²⁷ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-6(B).

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-12(E). *See also* [N.M. Code R. § 10.8.2.29](#) (reiterating this authority).

Open Carrying in New Mexico

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

Location Restrictions

(This section was last updated March 15, 2011.)

Guns in Vehicles in New Mexico

In New Mexico, a person may possess an *unloaded* firearm in a motor vehicle.³⁰

New Mexico prohibits any person from boarding or attempting to board a bus while in possession of a readily accessible firearm, unless prior approval has been granted by the bus company.³¹ A person may, however, transport a firearm on a bus in accordance with regulations established by the bus company if the firearm is in a compartment not accessible to passengers while the bus is moving.³² “Bus” is defined as “any passenger bus, coach or other motor vehicle having a seating capacity of not less than fifteen passengers operated by a bus transportation company when used for the purpose of carrying passengers or cargo for hire.”³³

³⁰ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2(A), (B).

³¹ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-13.

³² N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-15.

³³ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-11.

Guns in Schools in New Mexico

Elementary & Secondary Schools

New Mexico prohibits the possession of a firearm on school premises.³⁴ School premises are defined as:

- The buildings and grounds, including playgrounds, playing fields and parking areas and any school bus of any public elementary, secondary, junior high or high school in or on which school or school-related activities are being operated under the supervision of a local school board; or
- Any other public buildings or grounds, including playing fields and parking areas that are not public school property, in or on which public school-related and sanctioned activities are being performed.³⁵

The New Mexico Concealed Handgun Carry Act does not allow a concealed handgun licensee to carry a concealed handgun on the premises of a school or preschool.³⁶

In New Mexico, each school district is required to adopt a policy providing for the expulsion from school, for a period of not less than one year, of any student who knowingly brings a firearm to a school under the jurisdiction of the local board.³⁷ The local school board or district superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.³⁸

Colleges & Universities

New Mexico prohibits the possession of a firearm on the premises of post-secondary educational institutions, such as universities, community colleges, branch community colleges, technical-vocational institutes and area vocational schools.³⁹ “Premises” are defined as:

- The buildings and grounds of a university, including playing fields and parking areas of a university, in or on which university or university-related activities are conducted; or
- Any other public buildings or grounds, including playing fields and parking areas that are not university property, in or on which university-related and sanctioned activities are performed.⁴⁰

Exceptions include persons conducting or participating in a university-approved program, class or other activity involving the carrying of a firearm, and persons over age 19 on university

³⁴ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.1(A).

³⁵ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.1(B).

³⁶ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-8(B), (C).

³⁷ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-5-4.7(A), (C).

³⁸ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-5-4.7(A).

³⁹ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.4(A), (C)(1). The University of New Mexico applies disciplinary procedures and sanctions to any visitor who possesses or stores any firearm on university property. N.M. Code R. § 5.60.6.8(L).

⁴⁰ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.4(C)(2).

premises in a private automobile or other private means of conveyance for lawful protection of the person's or another's person or property.⁴¹

Universities and colleges shall conspicuously post notices on their premises that state that it is unlawful to carry a firearm on such premises.⁴²

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

⁴¹ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.4(A).

⁴² N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-2.4(B).

Other New Mexico Location Restrictions

New Mexico prohibits the carrying of firearms in the following locations:

- In an establishment licensed to dispense alcoholic beverages⁴³ unless, among other exceptions:
 - The possessor has a valid concealed handgun license; and
 - The establishment: a) does not serve alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises; or b) is a restaurant licensed to sell only beer and wine that derives not less than 60% of its annual gross receipts from the sale of food for consumption on the premises, unless the restaurant has posted conspicuous signs prohibiting gun possession or verbally instructs the possessor that the carrying of guns is prohibited;⁴⁴
- Within or upon any game refuge, unless the person is crossing the refuge over a public road or trail with the firearm unloaded, or the director of the refuge granted the possessor a permit;⁴⁵
- In the confines of a county or municipal jail;⁴⁶
- On the grounds of a designated adult correctional institution;⁴⁷
- On the grounds of a designated child detention or correctional facility;⁴⁸ and
- For any loaded firearm, whether concealed or unconcealed, within a state park, except during designated hunting seasons or in certain authorized areas.⁴⁹

Concealed handgun license holders are subject to these generally applicable possession prohibitions.⁵⁰ A licensee may not carry a concealed handgun on private property where signs are posted prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons, or when verbally told of the prohibition by a person lawfully in possession of the property.⁵¹

⁴³ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-3(A).

⁴⁴ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-7-3(A)(4).

⁴⁵ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 17-2-12.

⁴⁶ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-22-14(B).

⁴⁷ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-22-14(A).

⁴⁸ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-22-14.1(A), (B)(1).

⁴⁹ N.M. Code R. § 19.5.2.20(A).

⁵⁰ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-8(A) provides that nothing in the Concealed Handgun Carry Act, N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 29-19-1 – 29-19-14, shall be construed as allowing a licensee to carry a concealed handgun into or on premises where to do so would be in violation of state or federal law.

⁵¹ [N.M. Code R. §§ 10.8.2.16\(F\); 10.8.2.27.](#)

A concealed handgun license also is not valid in a courthouse or court facility unless authorized by the presiding judicial officer⁵² or on tribal land unless authorized by the governing body of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo.⁵³

Local court rules may prohibit firearms in courthouses or judicial complexes.⁵⁴

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

- Hospitals;
- Places of worship;
- Sports arenas;
- Gambling facilities; or
- Polling places.

⁵² N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-11.

⁵³ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-19-10.

⁵⁴ *See, e.g.*, 13th Jud. Dist. R. 210.

Consumer & Child Safety

Design Safety Standards for Handguns in New Mexico

New Mexico 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), New Mexico's Attorney General may have the authority to regulate junk guns, as well as promulgate other firearms safety standards.⁵⁵

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

⁵⁵ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 57-12-13. For details, see Legal Action Project, Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, *Targeting Safety* (2001), available at <http://www.bradycenter.org/xshare/pdf/reports/targetingsafety.pdf>.

Locking Devices in New Mexico

New Mexico does not require a locking device to accompany the sale of a firearm (although [federal law](#) applies), 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 New Mexico

New Mexico does not require firearms to be personalized.

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

New Mexico Child Access Prevention

New Mexico has no laws specifically requiring firearm owners to prevent access to firearms by children.

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

Classes of Weapons / Ammunition

Assault Weapons in New Mexico

New Mexico 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 New Mexico

New Mexico 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 New Mexico

New Mexico 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 New Mexico

(This section was last updated March 15, 2011.)

New Mexico has no laws regulating machine guns.

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

Non-Powder Guns in New Mexico

(This section was last updated March 15, 2011.)

New Mexico has no laws regulating non-powder (*i.e.*, BB and air) guns.

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

Ammunition Regulation in New Mexico

Restricting Locations Where Ammunition May be Possessed

New Mexico prohibits any person from bringing ammunition onto the grounds of the penitentiary of New Mexico or any other designated correctional institution,⁵⁶ or any county or municipal jail.⁵⁷ The state also prohibits any person from bringing ammunition into any juvenile detention or correctional facility.⁵⁸

New Mexico does **not**:

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

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

⁵⁶ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-22-14(A), (C)(1).

⁵⁷ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-22-14(B), (C)(1).

⁵⁸ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 30-22-14.1(A), (B)(1).

Crime Gun Investigation

Microstamping/Ballistic Identification in New Mexico

New Mexico 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.

New Mexico Firearms Trafficking

(This section was last updated March 15, 2011.)

New Mexico does not specifically regulate firearms trafficking.

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

New Mexico Links

[Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Phoenix Field Division \(AZ, NM\)](#)

[New Mexico Office of the Attorney General](#)

[New Mexico Voices for Children](#)

[New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)

[New Mexico Public Health Association](#)