



Ohio

Summary of State Firearms Law

Last Updated January 31, 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. Ohio ranked 22nd out of 50 – having enacted few gun violence prevention laws. Among other things, Ohio requires a firearm owner to [report the loss or theft](#) of any firearm in the person's possession or under the person's control.

However, Ohio 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](#);
- Require firearms dealers to obtain a [state license](#);
- Limit the [number of firearms](#) that may be purchased at one time;
- Impose a [waiting period](#) on firearm purchases;
- Regulate [ammunition sales](#);
- Allow [local governments to regulate firearms](#); or
- Provide local governments with the discretion to deny [concealed weapons permits](#).

Ohio Statistics

Gun Deaths

In 2009, Ohio had the 14th lowest number of gun deaths per capita among the states. Yet even this relatively low ranking means that in that year, 991 people died from firearm-related injuries in Ohio.¹

Crime Guns

Mayors Against Illegal Guns recently developed web pages detailing [data about each state's crime gun imports and exports](#). In every year from 2006 to 2009, Ohio was one of the top seven interstate suppliers of crime guns.² In 2009, Ohio was the top interstate supplier of crime guns to West Virginia and Michigan.³

Number of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers

There are 2,099 federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in Ohio.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* (September 2011).

² Mayors Against Illegal Guns, *Trace the Guns: The Link Between Gun Laws and Interstate Gun Trafficking* (September 2010), at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/report.pdf>.

³ Mayors Against Illegal Guns, *Trace the Guns*, at <http://www.tracetheguns.org>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, *List of Federal Firearms Licensees* (December 2011), at <http://www.atf.gov/about/foia/ffl-list.html>.

Ohio “Right to Bear Arms”

Ohio’s constitution provides for the keeping and bearing of arms, but permits gun 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 Ohio

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

State Firearms Policies in Ohio

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

Persons Prohibited from Firearm Possession

Ohio Prohibited Purchasers Generally

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

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

Similarly, Ohio prohibits the following persons from purchasing or possessing firearms, unless they have obtained a "relief from disability":⁵

- Fugitives from justice;
- Persons under indictment for or convicted of any violent felony offense, or who have been adjudicated a delinquent child for the commission of an offense that, if committed by an adult, would have been a violent felony offense;
- Persons under indictment for, or convicted of, a felony drug offense (or adjudicated a delinquent child for the commission of an offense that, if committed by an adult, would have been a felony drug offense);
- Persons who are "drug dependent, in danger of drug dependence" or chronic alcoholics; or
- Persons under adjudication for mental incompetence, adjudicated as a mental defective, committed to a mental institution, found to be mentally ill subject to hospitalization by court order, or involuntary mentally ill patients.⁶

Ohio law also restricts [sales to young people](#).

Ohio has no law preventing firearm purchase or possession by violent misdemeanants or persons subject to domestic violence restraining orders.

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

⁵ See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.14 regarding the procedure for obtaining relief from the prohibition against firearm possession. This provision was [amended in 2011](#).

⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.13(A).

Ohio Minimum Age to Purchase or Possess Firearms

Ohio law prohibits the purchase of a firearm by any person under age 18, and the purchase of a handgun by any person under age 21.⁷ Ohio law also generally prohibits selling or furnishing a firearm to a person under age 18, or a handgun to a person under age 21.⁸

Ohio provides no minimum age for the possession of firearms, although [federal age restrictions](#) still apply.

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

⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.211(A), (B).

⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.21(A)(1)-(3).

Domestic Violence and Firearms in Ohio

Ohio has no law:

- Prohibiting individuals convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors from purchasing or possessing firearms or ammunition, although [federal law](#) applies;
- Prohibiting individuals subject to domestic violence protective orders from possessing firearms or ammunition,⁹ although [federal law](#) applies; or
- Requiring the removal or surrender of firearms at the time a domestic violence protective order is issued.

When a court issues a domestic violence order of protection, Ohio law requires the court to provide the parties to the order with the following notice, orally or in a form:

“NOTICE

As a result of this order or consent agreement, it may be unlawful for you to possess or purchase a firearm, including a rifle, pistol, or revolver, or ammunition pursuant to federal law under 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(8). If you have any questions whether this law makes it illegal for you to possess or purchase a firearm or ammunition, you should consult an attorney.”¹⁰

Ohio law requires a police officer who is responding to the scene of an alleged incident of domestic violence or a violation of a protection order to seize any weapon used, brandished, or threatened to be used in the incident.¹¹ Seized firearms must be given permanently to law enforcement, sold at public auction or to a federally licensed firearms dealer, or destroyed.¹²

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

⁹ As part of granting a domestic violence protection order or agreement, a court may grant any appropriate and equitable relief, but state law does not specify whether a firearm prohibition is permissible. See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3113.31(E)(1)(h).

¹⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2151.34(F)(2), 2903.214(F)(2), 3113.31(F)(2).

¹¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2935.03(B)(3)(h).

¹² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2981.12(A)(2).

Disarming Prohibited Persons in Ohio

Ohio has no law requiring the removal of firearms from [persons who have become prohibited from possessing them](#); except that a police officer who is responding to an alleged violation of a protection order must seize any weapon used, brandished or threatened to be used in the incident.¹³

¹³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2935.03(B)(3)(h).

Sales & Transfers

Background Checks in Ohio

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

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

Ohio is not a point of contact state for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Ohio has no law requiring firearms dealers to initiate background checks prior to transferring a firearm. As a result, in Ohio, firearms dealers must initiate the background check required by federal law by contacting the FBI directly.¹⁴

Ohio 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](#).

¹⁴ 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 Nov. 30, 2011).

Mental Health Reporting in Ohio

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

Federal law prohibits possession of a firearm or ammunition by any person who has been “adjudicated as a mental defective” or involuntarily “committed to any mental institution.”¹⁵ 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.

Ohio has no laws requiring the reporting of mental health information to NICS. Ohio requires a probate judge who finds an individual to be a mentally ill person subject to hospitalization by court order to notify the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (“BCII”) of the identity of the individual.¹⁶ Similarly, the chief clinical officer of a hospital, agency, or facility must notify BCII if a person becomes an involuntary patient other than one who is a patient only for purposes of observation.¹⁷ The officer or judge must use the form prescribed by the attorney general for the notification. The notification must be transmitted by the judge or the officer no later than seven days after the adjudication or commitment.¹⁸

State law requires this information to be used for incompetency records checks for concealed weapons permits, and states that this information is confidential.¹⁹

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

¹⁵ [18 U.S.C. § 922\(d\)\(4\)](#).

¹⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 5122.311.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

Multiple Purchases / Sales of Firearms in Ohio

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

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

Retention of Sales / Background Check Records in Ohio

Ohio has no law requiring the retention of sales or background check records, 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.

Ohio Waiting Periods

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

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

Gun Dealers & Other Sellers

Ohio 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.

Ohio has no law requiring firearms dealers to obtain a state license or permit.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety is required to prepare a poster and a brochure that describe safe firearms practices, and must furnish copies of the poster and brochure free of charge to each federally licensed firearms dealer.²⁰

For information about the Ohio law requiring a locking device to accompany the sale of a firearm, see the [Ohio Locking Devices](#) section.

Ohio has no law requiring dealers to conduct a background check on prospective firearm purchasers, although the [federal background check requirement](#) applies.

See also the [Ohio Private Sales](#) section for Ohio laws that apply to gun sales generally.

²⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 5502.63.

Private Sales in Ohio

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

Ohio does not require a background check on the purchaser of a firearm when the seller is not a licensed dealer.

Ohio prohibits any person from recklessly selling, lending, giving, or furnishing a firearm to a person prohibited by state law from acquiring a firearm.²¹ Moreover, Ohio prohibits possessing a firearm with the purpose of disposing of it in violation of this provision.²² Ohio also restricts [sales to young people](#). See the section entitled [Firearms Trafficking in Ohio](#) for additional laws regarding private sales.

²¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.20(A)(1).

²² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.20(A)(2).

Ohio Gun Shows

Ohio has no law regulating gun shows. See the [Ohio Private Sales](#) section for additional state laws that apply at gun shows.

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

Ohio Immunity Statutes

Ohio law prevents any member of the firearms industry from being held liable for damages or from being subject to an injunction as a result of the operation or discharge of a firearm. This rule does not apply, however, if the industry member operated or discharged the firearm that resulted in the harm in a tortious manner, or if the industry member sold, lent, gave, or furnished the firearm illegally. This rule also does not apply to a product liability action, or an action for breach of contract or breach of an express warranty.²³

Ohio provides limited immunity for owners, operators or users of a shooting range.²⁴

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.

²³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.401(B). "Member of the firearms industry" means any manufacturer, dealer, or importer of firearms, firearms components, or firearms ammunition or any trade association the members of which, in whole or in part, are manufacturers, dealers, or importers of firearms, firearms components, or firearms ammunition. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.401(A)(4), (C)(2), (3). This statute also applies to tort or other civil actions commenced on or after the effective date of this section, or commenced prior to and pending on the effective date of this section, for damages or injunctive relief based upon harm allegedly sustained by any person as a result of the operation or discharge of a firearm. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2305.401(D).

²⁴ Owners, operators, or users of a shooting range are not liable in damages to any person for harm allegedly caused by noise at a range or the failure to limit or suppress noise at a range if the owner, operator, or user substantially complies with noise rules prescribed by the Chief of the Division of Wildlife ("Chief"). Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1533.85(A)(1), (2). These provisions do not confer immunity from civil liability in relation to an owner's, operator's, or user's actions or omissions that constitute negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentionally tortious conduct if those actions or omissions are not the subject of the Chief's noise rules or are not in substantial compliance with the Chief's rules. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1533.85(A)(2)(d). State and municipal courts are not permitted to grant injunctive relief against the owner or operator of a shooting range in a nuisance action if the court determines that the owner's or operator's actions or omissions that are the subject of a complaint substantially complied with the Chief's noise or public safety rules, whichever apply to the nuisance action. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1533.85(C).

Gun Owner Responsibilities

Licensing of Gun Owners or Purchasers in Ohio

Ohio 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.

Ohio Registration of Firearms

Ohio has no law requiring 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 Ohio

Ohio requires that a firearm owner report “forthwith” the loss or theft of any firearm in the person’s possession or under the person’s control.²⁵

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

²⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.20(A)(5), (B).

Firearms in Public Places

Concealed Weapons Permitting in Ohio

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

Ohio does not prohibit a person from carrying a concealed handgun in public if the person has a license. A person who knowingly carries or conceals a handgun without a license is criminally liable for a misdemeanor.²⁶

Ohio is a "shall issue" state, meaning that local law enforcement must issue a license to carry a concealed handgun if an applicant meets certain qualifications. Ohio defines a handgun as "[a]ny firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand." Any combination of parts from which a handgun can be assembled is also considered a handgun.²⁷

A concealed handgun license applicant will not be granted a license unless he or she:

- Is legally living in the United States and has been an Ohio resident for at least 45 days and a resident of the county in which he or she is applying, or the adjacent county, for at least 30 days;
- Is at least 21 years of age;
- Is not a fugitive from justice;
- Is not under indictment for, and has not been charged with, convicted of or pled guilty to, a felony;
- Is not under indictment for, and has not been charged with, a misdemeanor offense of violence and, within the three years prior to the application, has not been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a misdemeanor offense of violence (with certain exceptions);
- Is not under indictment for, and has not been charged with: 1) negligent assault with a dangerous ordnance (which includes an automatic or sawed-off firearm, zip-gun, any firearm or ammunition designed for military purposes, firearm muffler or silencer, or any combination of parts intended for converting a firearm or other device into a dangerous ordnance) or deadly weapon; or 2) falsification or alteration of a license to carry a handgun;
- Is not under indictment for, and has not been charged with, convicted of or pled guilty to, a drug offense;
- Has not, within the five years prior to the application, been convicted of, pled guilty to, or been adjudicated a delinquent child for committing two or more acts of assault or negligent assault with a dangerous ordnance or deadly weapon;

²⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.12.

²⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.11(C).

- Has not, within the ten years prior to the application, been convicted of, pled guilty to, or been adjudicated a delinquent child for resisting arrest;
- Has not been adjudicated as a mental defective, committed to a mental institution, or found by a court to be mentally ill subject to hospitalization, and is not under adjudication of mental incompetence or an involuntary patient at any hospital for purposes of mental health treatment (see the [Ohio Mental Health Reporting](#) section);
- Is not subject to a protection order of any state;
- Certifies that he or she desires to carry a handgun for defense of self or family while engaged in lawful activity;
- Submits a certificate of completion of a firearms safety training course;
- Certifies that he or she has read the firearms safety pamphlet prepared by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission ("Commission"); and
- Is not subject to suspension of a license to carry a concealed handgun for violating certain state concealed weapons laws.²⁸

Firearm Safety Training

To obtain a license, an applicant must complete a training course that demonstrates competency in firearm use and safety, and must provide evidence of completion of such training course with his or her application.²⁹ The competency certification must have occurred within the three years immediately preceding the application.³⁰

Each acceptable course, class, or program must include at least 12 hours of training in the safe handling and use of a firearm, and include:

- At least 10 hours of training on the ability to:
 - Name, explain, and demonstrate the rules for safe handling of a handgun and proper storage practices for handguns and ammunition;
 - Demonstrate and explain how to handle ammunition in a safe manner;
 - Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to shoot a handgun in a safe manner; and
 - Gun handling training; and
- At least two hours of training that consists of range time and live-fire training.³¹

The applicant must also pass a competency examination that includes:

- A written section on the ability to name and explain the rules for the safe handling of a handgun and proper storage practices for handguns and ammunition; and

²⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.125(D)(1).

²⁹ See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.125(B).

³⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.125(B)(3).

³¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.125 (G)(1).

- A physical demonstration of competence in the use of a handgun and in the rules for safe handling and storage of a handgun and a physical demonstration of the attitude necessary to shoot a handgun in a safe manner.³²

Duration & Renewal

An Ohio license to carry a concealed handgun is valid for up to five years if issued on or after March 14, 2007.³³ A license issued before that date is valid for up to four years.³⁴

An individual may also obtain a temporary emergency license to carry a concealed handgun. These licenses are valid for up to 90 days, may not be renewed, and may only be obtained once every four years.³⁵

Disclosure or Use of Information

Ohio does not allow the identity of concealed handgun applicants to be made public. Ohio law requires a sheriff to destroy all records created for a background check 20 days after conducting a check for a license application. Sheriffs may retain only the application itself.³⁶

Ohio law also provides that a sheriff's records relative to the issuance, renewal, suspension or revocation of a license to carry a concealed handgun are confidential and not public records.³⁷ A journalist may submit to the sheriff a signed, written request to view the name, county and date of birth of each person who has been issued a license to carry a concealed handgun or had such a license suspended or revoked.³⁸ The request must include, among other things, a statement that the information would be in the public interest. The sheriff must comply with the request but a journalist "shall not copy the name, county of residence, or date of birth of each person to or for whom the sheriff has issued, suspended, or revoked" such a license.³⁹

Reciprocity

Ohio requires the Attorney General to enter into a reciprocity agreement with any state that recognizes a license to carry a concealed handgun issued in Ohio and has eligibility requirements for a concealed handgun license that are "substantially comparable" to those of Ohio.⁴⁰

³² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.125(G)(2).

³³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(A).

³⁴ *Id.*, Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.125(D)(2). See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.125(F) for renewal requirements.

³⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.1213(B)(2). Additional application and background check requirements, as well as permit suspension and disqualification information, are detailed under Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2923.125 and 2923.128.

³⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 311.41(B), (C).

³⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.129(B)(1).

³⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.129(B)(2).

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 109.69(A).

Open Carrying in Ohio

Ohio does not restrict the carrying of unconcealed, loaded firearms in public.

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

Location Restrictions

Guns in Vehicles in Ohio

Ohio prohibits any person from knowingly transporting or having in a motor vehicle a loaded firearm that is accessible to the operator or any passenger who has not left the vehicle.⁴¹ In addition, no person shall knowingly transport or have a firearm in a motor vehicle, unless the gun is unloaded and the firearm is carried:

- In a closed package, box, or case;
- In a compartment that can be reached only by leaving the vehicle;
- In plain sight and secured in a rack or holder made for the purpose; or
- If the firearm is at least 24 inches in overall length and the barrel is at least 18 inches in length, either in plain sight with the action open or the weapon stripped or, if the firearm is of a type on which the action will not stay open or which cannot easily be stripped, in plain sight.⁴²

The state prohibits the knowing transportation of a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle if the possessor is under the influence of any alcohol or drug, or the person's blood, breath, or urine contains a concentration of alcohol, a listed controlled substance, or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance prohibited for persons operating a vehicle.⁴³

[In 2011, Ohio repealed a provision](#) prohibiting a concealed handgun licensee from knowingly transporting or having a loaded handgun while in a motor vehicle unless it was in a holster or properly stored.⁴⁴

Ohio law prohibits the operation of a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all-purpose vehicle while the operator is transporting any firearm unless the firearm is unloaded and securely encased.⁴⁵

Finally, Ohio prohibits any person from knowingly transporting or having a loaded firearm in a watercraft vessel if the firearm is accessible to the operator or any passenger.⁴⁶ Persons are also prohibited from knowingly transporting or having a firearm in a vessel unless it is unloaded and carried: a) in a closed package, box, or case; or b) in plain sight with the action opened or the weapon stripped or, if the firearm is of a type on which the action will not stay open or that cannot easily be stripped, in plain sight.⁴⁷

⁴¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.16(B).

⁴² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.16(C).

⁴³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.16(D).

⁴⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.16(E). Certain rules apply to a licensee who is carrying a loaded handgun and is stopped as a result of a traffic stop or for another law enforcement purpose. See Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.16(E)(3)-(6).

⁴⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4519.40(A)(5).

⁴⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1547.69(C).

⁴⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1547.69(D).

Guns in Schools in Ohio

Ohio prohibits any person from knowingly possessing a firearm in a "school safety zone."⁴⁸ Ohio also prohibits the knowing possession in a school safety zone of any object indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not it is capable of being fired, if the possessor indicates that he or she possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.⁴⁹ A "school safety zone" consists of any school, school building, school premises, school activity or school bus.⁵⁰

This prohibition does not apply to a concealed handgun license holder who possesses a handgun in a school safety zone if the person does not enter into a school building or onto school premises and is not at a school activity and is in compliance with federal law.⁵¹ This prohibition also does not apply to concealed handgun license holder who possesses a handgun in a school safety zone as the driver or passenger in a motor vehicle while immediately in the process of picking up or dropping off a child.⁵²

A concealed handgun license does not authorize a person to carry a concealed handgun on premises owned or leased by a college, university or other institution of higher education, unless the handgun is in a locked motor vehicle.⁵³

The superintendent of schools of a city, exempted village, or local school district must expel a pupil from school for a period of one year if the pupil brings a firearm to a school operated by the board of education of the district or onto any other property owned or controlled by the board.⁵⁴ The superintendent may expel a pupil from school for a period of one year for bringing a firearm to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the district.⁵⁵ The superintendent may reduce these disciplinary actions on case-by-case bases in accordance with board policy.⁵⁶

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

⁴⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.122(B).

⁴⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.122(C).

⁵⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2901.01(C)(1).

⁵¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.122(D)(3).

⁵² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.122(D)(4).

⁵³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(5).

⁵⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.66(B)(2)(a).

⁵⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.66(B)(2)(b).

⁵⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.66(B)(2)(a), (b).

Other Location Restrictions in Ohio

Regardless of whether or not he or she has been issued a concealed handgun license, no person may possess a firearm in the following locations:

- A law enforcement office or correctional institution;⁵⁷
- An airport passenger terminal;⁵⁸
- A facility operated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health;⁵⁹
- Any room or open air arena in which beer or intoxicating liquor is being served on premises for which a liquor license has been issued⁶⁰ ([a 2011 law](#) exempted concealed weapons license holders from this restriction, if the license holder is not consuming beer or liquor or under the influence of alcohol or a drug of abuse);
- A courthouse or building in which a courtroom is located (with limited exceptions);⁶¹
- A place of worship, unless the place of worship posts notice or otherwise permits concealed handguns;⁶²
- A child day-care center or family day-care home, except that a licensee who resides in a family day-care home may carry a handgun in any part of the home not used for day-care purposes. He or she may carry a handgun in any part of the home that is used for day-care purposes at a time during which no children, other than the licensee's own children, are in the home;⁶³
- An aircraft that is in operation or intended for operation in foreign, interstate, or intrastate air transportation or mail transportation;⁶⁴
- Any building that is a government facility of the state or political subdivision of the state and not used primarily as a shelter, restroom, parking facility for motor vehicles, or rest facility;⁶⁵
- Any place in which federal law prohibits the carrying of a handgun;⁶⁶
- Any privately-owned land or premises, or land or premises leased from Ohio or the United States or political subdivisions of Ohio or the United States, upon which the owner, lessee, or person in control posts a sign prohibiting persons from carrying firearms onto the land or premises.⁶⁷

Ohio has no law prohibiting firearms in the following places, although administrative regulations may apply:

⁵⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(1).

⁵⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(1).

⁵⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(1).

⁶⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2923.121(B)(1)(e), 2923.126(B)(4).

⁶¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2923.123; 2923.126(B)(3).

⁶² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(6).

⁶³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(7).

⁶⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(8).

⁶⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(9).

⁶⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(B)(10).

⁶⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.126(C)(3).

- Parks;
- Hospitals;
- Gambling facilities; or
- Polling places.

Consumer & Child Safety

Ohio Design Safety Standards for Handguns

Ohio has no law imposing design safety standards on handguns. See [Regulating Guns in America: Design Safety Standards for Handguns](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

According to research conducted by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence (now Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence), Ohio's Attorney General may have the authority to regulate "junk guns," as well as promulgate other firearm safety standards.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act, Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1345.05. 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 Ohio

Ohio law provides that when selling any firearm, a federally licensed firearms dealer must offer for sale a trigger lock, gun lock, or gun locking device appropriate for the firearm being sold.⁶⁹ [Federal law](#) is similar.

Ohio has no law requiring firearm owners to utilize locking devices.

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

⁶⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.25.

Personalized / Owner-Authorized Firearms in Ohio

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

Ohio Child Access Prevention

Ohio has no law specifically penalizing allowing children access to firearms. See [Regulating Guns in America: Child Access Prevention](#) for a comprehensive discussion of this issue.

Classes of Weapons / Ammunition

Assault Weapons in Ohio

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

Ohio has no law restricting assault weapons generally. However, Ohio includes within the definition of "[a]utomatic firearm" any semi-automatic firearm designed or specially adapted to fire more than thirty-one cartridges without reloading, other than a firearm chambering only .22 caliber short, long, or long-rifle cartridges.⁷⁰ For further information, see the [Machine Guns](#) section.

⁷⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.11(E).

Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines in Ohio

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

Ohio has no law restricting large capacity magazines. However, Ohio includes within the definition of "[a]utomatic firearm" any semi-automatic firearm designed or specially adapted to fire more than thirty-one cartridges without reloading, other than a firearm chambering only .22 caliber short, long, or long-rifle cartridges.⁷¹ For further information, see the [Machine Guns](#) section.

⁷¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.11(E).

Fifty Caliber Rifles in Ohio

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

Machine Guns/Automatic Firearms in Ohio

Ohio law defines the term "[d]angerous ordnance" to include any "automatic firearm."⁷² "Automatic firearm" means any firearm designed or specially adapted to fire a succession of cartridges with a single function of the trigger.⁷³ "Automatic firearm" also means any semi-automatic firearm designed or specially adapted to fire more than thirty-one cartridges without reloading, other than a firearm chambering only .22 caliber short, long, or long-rifle cartridges.⁷⁴

It is generally unlawful to knowingly acquire, have, carry, or use any dangerous ordnance without a license or permit.⁷⁵ Ohio law allows the sheriff of a county or safety director or police chief of a municipality to, in his or her discretion, issue a license or temporary permit to acquire, possess, carry, or use dangerous ordnance to any responsible person, so long as the dangerous ordnance was lawfully acquired, possessed, and carried, and is used for a legitimate research, scientific, educational, industrial, or other proper purpose.⁷⁶ The applicant must reside or have his or her principal place of business in the county or municipality, must be age 21 or over, and it must appear that the applicant has "sufficient competence to safely acquire, possess, carry, or use the dangerous ordnance, and that proper precautions will be taken to protect the security of the dangerous ordnance and ensure the safety of persons and property."⁷⁷ The issuing authority may list any "restrictions on the acquisition, possession, carriage, or use of the dangerous ordnance as the issuing authority considers advisable to protect the security of the dangerous ordnance and ensure the safety of persons and property."⁷⁸ The issuing authority must forward a copy of all such licenses and permits to the state fire marshal.⁷⁹

Anyone who is transferring any dangerous ordnance to another must require the transferee to exhibit the license or permit, and must take a complete record of the transaction and forward a copy of that record to the sheriff of the county or safety director or police chief of the municipality where the transaction takes place.⁸⁰

Ohio law also penalizes any person who, in acquiring, possessing, carrying, or using any dangerous ordnance, negligently fails to take proper precautions to secure the dangerous ordnance against theft, or against its acquisition or use by any unauthorized or incompetent person, or to insure the safety of persons and property.⁸¹

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

⁷² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.11(K).

⁷³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.11(E).

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.17.

⁷⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.18(A).

⁷⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.18(C).

⁷⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.18(D).

⁷⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.18(G). For further information about these permits and licenses, see Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.18.

⁸⁰ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.20(A)(4).

⁸¹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.19(A).

Non-Powder Guns in Ohio

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

Ammunition Regulation in Ohio

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

Ohio does **not**:

- Require a license for the sale of ammunition;
- 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, although the [federal ammunition purchaser prohibitions](#) apply;
- Prohibit armor-piercing ammunition, although the [federal prohibition on certain kinds of armor-piercing ammunition](#) applies; or
- Otherwise regulate ammunition.

Investigating Gun Crimes

Ohio Microstamping/Ballistic Identification

Ohio has no law 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 Ohio

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

Ohio law penalizes anyone who:

- Recklessly sells, lends, gives, or furnishes a firearm to a person prohibited by state law from acquiring a firearm;⁸²
- Possesses a firearm with the purpose of selling, lending, giving, or furnishing it to a person prohibited by state law from acquiring a firearm;⁸³
- Changes, alters, removes, or obliterates the name of the manufacturer, model, manufacturer's serial number, or other mark of identification on a firearm;⁸⁴
- Possesses a firearm knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the name of the manufacturer, model, manufacturer's serial number, or other mark of identification on the firearm has been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated;⁸⁵
- Sells or furnishes a firearm knowing or having reason to know that the person is purchasing or receiving the firearm for the purpose of selling or furnishing the firearm illegally to a person under age 18;⁸⁶
- Sells or furnishes a handgun knowing or having reason to know that the person is purchasing or receiving the handgun for the purpose of selling or furnishing the handgun illegally to a person under age 21;⁸⁷
- Purchases or attempts to purchase any firearm with the intent to sell or furnish the firearm illegally to a person under age 18;⁸⁸ and
- Purchases or attempts to purchase any handgun with the intent to sell or furnish the handgun illegally to a person under age 21.⁸⁹

Ohio does **not**:

- Penalize a firearms dealer for failing to conduct the [federally required background check](#) on a purchaser;
- Prohibit any person from giving false information or offering false evidence of his or her identity in purchasing or otherwise securing delivery of a firearm; or
- Have any other laws aimed at firearms trafficking.

⁸² Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.20(A)(1).

⁸³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.20(A)(2).

⁸⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.201(A).

⁸⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.201(A).

⁸⁶ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.21(A)(4).

⁸⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.21(A)(5).

⁸⁸ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.21(A)(6).

⁸⁹ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.21(A)(7).

Ohio State Links

[Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Columbus Field Division \(OH, IN\)](#)

[Attorney General's Office, State of Ohio](#)

[Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence](#)