

Concealed Carry Frequently Asked Questions

DISCLAIMER: Answers provided to the following questions are meant only to give general guidance. The answers do not and are not meant to replace statutory language.

If you have a question regarding the Firearm Concealed Carry Act that is not addressed in this section, please call (217) 782-7980.

- Enforcement

How will Illinois State Police (ISP) officers and local law enforcement respond to citizens who are carrying weapons?

The ISP will continue to enforce the law in effect. Persons who carry firearms without a Concealed Carry License issued by the ISP are subject to arrest.

- Who needs an Illinois Concealed Carry License?

Everyone who wants to carry a concealed firearm on his/her person in Illinois is required to have an Illinois Concealed Carry License except current peace officers and retired police officers eligible under a federally approved retired officer concealed carry program such as the Illinois Retired Officer Concealed Carry (IROCC) Program. Retired officers may be eligible to carry under either the IROCC Program or the Firearm Concealed Carry Act (430 ILCS 66).

- Will Illinois Concealed Carry License holders have reciprocity in other states?

This will be determined by the laws of the 49 other states. Illinois Concealed Carry License holders who want to conceal and carry in other states are responsible for researching the state laws to where they are traveling.

- Will persons be allowed to open carry?

No. A handgun carried on or about a person must be concealed from view of the public or on or about a person within a vehicle.

- Where can business owners or property owners obtain information about required signage?

The 4 inch by 6 inch sign is available for download at <http://www.isp.state.il.us/firearms/ccw>. The Illinois State Police has adopted administrative rules permitting the design and posting of a larger sign (of any size) if the property owner feels the entrance to their building, premises or real property

requires one. The 4 inch by 6 inch sign must be visible somewhere on the larger sign. The administrative rules proposed by the Illinois State Police also permit the larger sign to include additional language. The administrative rules have been filed with the Illinois Secretary of State pursuant to the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act and will be published in the January 17th Illinois Register.

- What if a business owner or employer wants to prohibit their employees from carrying in the workplace, can they have more restrictive employment policies? And, if they do so, should they post the required sign?

This is an employment law question. The Illinois State Police cannot give legal advice to employers; however, the law is not written to preempt a private employer's right to have more restrictive employment policies. If a business owner or employer wants to prohibit only employees, they should not post the required sign as doing so makes the location a prohibited place. Rather, this should be addressed through appropriate employment policies.

- What is the parking lot exemption for CCL holders in prohibited places?

Any licensee prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm into the parking area of a prohibited location shall be permitted to carry a concealed firearm on or about his or her person within a vehicle into the parking area and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area. A licensee may carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle within a prohibited parking lot area only for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicles trunk , provided the licensee ensures the concealed firearm is unloaded prior to exiting the vehicle. This exception does not apply to any area where firearms are prohibited under federal law or to property regulated by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

- Concealed Carry License Applicant

What is the cost for an Illinois Concealed Carry License?

\$150 for 5 years for Illinois residents

\$300 for 5 years for out-of-state residents

- How does a citizen apply for an Illinois Concealed Carry License?

The application is now available to the public on the ISP webpage. Additional information regarding the application and fingerprinting process have also been added to this website.

- How long will it take a citizen to obtain an Illinois Concealed Carry License?

Upon receipt of a completed application, including fee, the ISP shall issue or deny the applicant an Illinois Concealed Carry License within 90 days, provided the applicant submits a full set of fingerprints in electronic format. If fingerprints are not submitted the ISP is granted an additional 30 days to complete a manual background check. In all cases, law enforcement agencies will have 30 days to file an objection once an application is received.

- The Act requires applicants to submit a photo taken within the past 30 days, will the photo taken as part of the Fee Application for applicants who submit electronic fingerprints satisfy this requirement?

No. All applicants must submit a photo taken within the past 30 days even if they were photographed as part of their fingerprinting process.

- What are the qualifications for an Illinois Concealed Carry License?

The applicant must:

- Be at least 21 years of age

- Have a currently valid FOID card (if an Illinois resident)
- Is not prohibited under federal law from possessing or receiving a firearm
- Have not been convicted or found guilty in Illinois or any other state of:
 - A misdemeanor involving the use or threat of physical force or violence to any person within the last 5 years
 - 2 or more violations related to driving while under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds, or any combination thereof, within the last 5 years

- Not be the subject of a pending arrest warrant, prosecution, or proceeding for an offense or action that could lead to disqualification
- Not have been in residential or court-ordered treatment for alcoholism, alcohol detoxification, or drug treatment within the last 5 years
- Submit a completed Concealed Carry License application
- Successfully complete 16 hours of firearms training, including classroom and range instruction.

- What type of firearm will I be allowed to carry concealed?

A "Concealed firearm" is defined, in relevant part, as a loaded or unloaded handgun.

"Handgun" means any device which is designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas, or escape of gas that is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand.

"Handgun" does not include: 1.A stun gun or taser;
2.A machine gun as defined in item (i) of paragraph (7) of subsection (a) of Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012;
3.A short-barreled rifle or shotgun as defined in item (ii) of paragraph (7) of subsection (a) of Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012
4.Any pneumatic gun, spring gun, paint ball gun, or B-B gun which expels a single globular projectile not exceeding .18 inch in diameter, or which has a maximum muzzle velocity of less than 700 feet per second, or which expels breakable paint balls containing washable marking colors.

- Are there any publicly available computers I can use to apply for a Concealed Carry License?

Yes. Based on the Illinois Public Library Annual Report (FY13), all public libraries in Illinois have internet access. Please use the attached links to locate a public library in your area.

Chicago Public Library System <http://www.librarylearning.info/libraries/?LibSys=CPLS&LibraryTypeID=1>

Illinois Heartland Library System
<http://www.librarylearning.info/libraries/?LibSys=IHLS&LibraryTypeID=1>

Reaching Across Illinois Library System
<http://www.librarylearning.info/libraries/?LibSys=RAILS&LibraryTypeID=1>

- Are there any Concealed Carry Instructors I can contact for assistance with the application process?

Yes. Please use the attached link to find instructors who have indicated a willingness to provide application assistance.

<https://ccl4illinois.com/ccw/Public/FindInstructor.aspx>

- Instructor Applicant

How can I register as a Concealed Carry Firearms Instructor?

The ISP has established administrative rules consistent with the Firearm Concealed Carry Act. A link to the instructor approval application is available on the ISP webpage.

- Why do Instructor Applicants have to pay a fee of \$31.50 for the fingerprint based background check?

Fees for fingerprint based background checks are set pursuant to state and federal law. The ISP cannot charge more than the fees required by law.

- Where can I go to be fingerprinted?

Concealed Carry License applicants who intend to submit fingerprints for non-criminal justice purposes must do so through a Licensed Illinois Livescan Vendor. A list of Licensed Livescan Vendors is available at the following link:

<https://www.idfpr.com/LicenseLookUp/fingerprintlist.asp>

This list is all inclusive; accordingly, any vendor not on this list is not a Licensed Illinois Livescan Vendor. Prints from non-licensed vendors will not be accepted.

- Can I go to a police department to be fingerprinted?

You can go to a local police departments if they have registered and become a licensed Livescan vendor. Additionally, the Illinois State Police is working to adopt a process by which local agencies can choose to be registered to accept fingerprints for FCCA License applicants.

- I had my fingerprints taken for a previous job, can I use the same TCN for my Concealed Carry application?

No. New fingerprints must be submitted with the ISP form.

- What do I do if the system indicates my TCN is a duplicate?

This error message occurs when you have already submitted your application. Once you select "Submit," your TCN cannot be used again. If you were not prompted to print the signature form after you selected "Submit," you may obtain a copy of the signature form at

<https://www.isp.state.il.us/appriss/ccw/CCWFirearmsInstructorApprovalSignatureForm.pdf>

- Does my Concealed Carry firearms instructor application need to be notarized?

Yes. The signature form must be completed, signed, and notarized by a Notary Public.

- On the instructor application, it asks for my business name, why?

Some instructors have indicated they believe applicants will be looking for business names on the registry rather than just instructor names, which may be less familiar. This field was added to make finding an instructor easier. There is no requirement that the field be completed if the individual instructor is not associated with a business.

- On the instructor application it asks for my e-mail address, can I use a web address instead?

No, only an e-mail address will be accepted. This field was added to make finding an instructor easier. There is no requirement that the field be completed if the individual does not have an e-mail address.

- On the instructor application, it asks for the date I became certified, why? And, what do I put if I do not know?

The date is requested for confirming certification. If you do not know the certification date but rather have an expiration date, you will have the option to include it instead. Either a certification date or an expiration date will be required.

- Can anyone who has taken any class become an instructor?

No. Only persons who have a valid firearm instructor certification as required by the Act can become an approved instructor.

- What are the qualifications to become a Concealed Carry Firearms Instructor?

A person seeking to become a certified Illinois Concealed Carry Firearms Instructor shall:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Be a legal resident of the United States and qualified for a Concealed Carry License in Illinois
- Possess a high school diploma or GED certificate
- Have at least one of the following valid firearms instructor certifications:
 - Certification from a law enforcement agency
 - Certification from a firearm instructor course offered by a state or federal governmental agency
 - Certification from a firearm instructor course offered by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
 - Certification from an entity approved by the Illinois State Police that offers firearm instructor education and training in the use and safety of firearms

Can out of state residents become a Concealed Carry Firearms Instructor?

Yes. The Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act, 430 ILCS 66/80 sets forth the qualifications to be a firearms instructor. The Act has been amended to remove the requirement that out of state instructor applicants be eligible for a FOID card.

- Upon submitting, how do I know ISP received my application and how will I be informed whether I have been approved?

Upon hitting "Submit" you should have received a confirmation page. Once the ISP makes a decision regarding your application, you will be notified by letter via U.S. Mail.

- When will ISP begin posting a registry of approved instructors on its website?

The ISP has posted a registry of approved instructors on its website and will add additional instructors as they are vetted through the background process and approved.

- Curriculum
- If a business or one or more Instructors are teaching from the same curriculum, are all instructors using the curriculum required to submit it to the ISP for approval?

No, once curriculum is approved and listed on the ISP's website as approved curriculum, any approved instructor with access to the curriculum may use it.

- Will instructors have to retain the B27 qualifying target or a digital copy for purposes of retaining a record of each student's performance for 5 years?

No. Pursuant to the Act, the instructor must keep a record of each student's performance for a period of 5 years. The ISP will not dictate the manner in which such record is kept. Depending upon the size of business, record keeping systems may vary.

- Are there any naming convention requirements for curriculum approval?

No. The name of the class is immaterial. The only requirements for curriculum approval is that it meet the subject and minimum hour requirements set forth in administrative rule.

- What is public storage?

"Public Storage" means storage at publicly owned location, for example in a storage locker provided by a public or government facility, which may or may not have its own storage rules or protocols.

- When will ISP begin posting a list of approved curriculum on its website?

The ISP has posted a registry of approved curriculum on its website and will add additional curriculum as they are reviewed and approved.

- Once the curriculum is listed as approved, must it be taught by an approved instructor in order for the applicants to get credit for the training?

Yes, approved curriculum must be taught by an approved instructor. People who qualify for up to 8 hours of credit for prior training, which is explained in further detail within the Training Questions, need not have been trained by an approved instructor.

- Training
- Where can citizens obtain firearms training?

On August 30, 2013, the ISP began approval of certified firearms instructors and firearm training courses. A registry of approved instructors and list of approved courses is available on the ISP webpage and will be updated as additional instructors are approved.

PLEASE NOTE: On-duty ISP officers will NOT provide training, nor will ISP ranges be used.

- What does the firearms training course consist of?
- A 16 hour training course must, at a minimum, cover the following topics:

A. Firearms Safety - a minimum of 1 hour;

B. Basic Principles of Marksmanship - a minimum of 1 hour;

C. Care, Cleaning, Loading and Unloading of a Concealable Firearm - a minimum of 1 hour;

D. All Applicable State and Federal Laws Relating to the Ownership, Storage, Carry and Transportation of a Firearm (including but not limited to the appropriate and lawful interaction with law enforcement while transporting or carrying a concealed firearm) - a minimum of 2 hours; and

E. Weapons Handling - a minimum of 1 range hour.

All applicants must pass a live fire exercise with a concealable firearm consisting of: a. A minimum of 30 rounds

b. 10 rounds from a distance of 5 yards, 10 rounds from a distance of 7 yards, and 10 rounds from a distance of 10 yards at a B-27 silhouette target approved by the ISP.

- Is anyone exempt from the training requirements in the Act?

Yes, the exemptions are set by statute and cannot be expanded upon by the ISP. The statute provides that a person who has (i) qualified to carry a firearm as an active law enforcement officer, (ii) been certified as a firearms instructor by the Act or by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, or (iii) has completed the required training and (emphasis added) has been issued a firearm control card (FCC or Tan Card) by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation shall be exempt from the training requirements in the Act. The applicant must submit verification that the training requirements for the FCC Card have been completed.

- Who can get credit for up to 8 hours of prior training (from either previous courses or experience)?

The eligibility requirements for receiving credit for prior training are set by statute and cannot be expanded upon by the ISP. The statute provides that active, retired, and honorably discharged members of the United States Armed Forces shall be considered to have completed 8 hours of the 16 hour training requirement. Applicants who have completed a training course that is approved by the Department and recognized under the laws of another state may get up to 8 hours of training toward the 16 hour training requirement. A list of courses approved for up to 8 hours credit is available on the website.

- What information/documentation will veterans need to provide to receive credit for 8 hours of training?

Current military personnel will need to provide documentation identifying the holder as an active member of the US Armed Forces (CAC or DD Form 2 ID cards in green, blue, or red, for instance). Veterans will need to provide a copy of their DD-214 or NGB 22.

- Who decides whether to give credit for prior training and how much to give?

The Department and certified firearms instructors shall recognize up to 8 hours of training already completed toward the 16 hour training requirement. Pursuant to the discretion granted within the statute regarding the proficiency of trainees, instructors must verify the prior training and can, within their discretion, determine the need for further training on a case by case basis. The Department has provided a list of approved curriculum to guide individual instructors with this decision. Two different 4 hour classes from the list of approved curriculum may be combined for up to 8 hours of prior training credit.

- If a person receives prior training credit, what are they required to take in addition to fulfill the 16 hour training requirement under the Act?

Any remaining hours that the applicant completes must at least cover applicable State and Federal Laws Relating to the Ownership, Storage, Carry and Transportation of a Firearm Instruction as well as Weapons Handling as defined in the statute and administrative rules. The Instructor shall verify the aggregate number of hours for which the applicant provided proof of instruction in Firearms Safety, Basic Principles of Marksmanship, and Care, Cleaning, Loading and Unloading of a Concealable Firearm, based upon a list provided by the Department of accepted training courses, and provide the necessary additional hours of training to equal 16. Applicants must meet the minimums set out in the 16 hour curriculum. The instructor will need to assess and verify the areas on which the applicant was previously trained and modify the blocks of instruction in sections 1, 2, and 3 to cover the remaining requirements. Sections 4 and 5 should remain unaltered.

- Will the Department of Natural Resources' hunter safety classes be approved training?

Yes, the instructor has the ability to apply 4 hours of credit for the hunter safety class.

- Can an applicant take part of their hours from one instructor and additional hours from another instructor?

Yes, as long as all of the training was based upon approved curriculum and they cover all of the subjects required by the 16 hour curriculum.

- Is everyone required to go through exactly the same (or a cookie cutter) program or do the instructors have any discretion to teach based upon skill level?

The ISP encourages the instructors to teach to proficiency. Minimum hours of instruction have been included as a guide to ensure proficiency; however, the exact make-up of the training will be at the discretion of the individual instructors.

- What date should I put on the student certificate for date of expiration?

For now, put "N/A". This component is being removed from current forms.

- Why are time lines established in the ISP rules regarding the training required?

The time lines established are geared toward expert shooters. The minimum hours set herein have been determined to be sufficient for the experienced shooter and shall be adjusted by the approved instructor based upon the skill level of those to be trained to ensure proficiency by all upon the completion of the required training component.

- Do applicants have to own their own equipment before they can take a training class?

Not necessarily, equipment requirements will be set by approved instructors.

- Miscellaneous
- Hiring for Concealed Carry

If you are interested in employment with the State of Illinois, Illinois State Police as part of the new Illinois Concealed Carry Program, please visit <http://www.work.illinois.gov> to find information concerning the employment opportunities available.