

Self Defense Options – Weapons

Excerpt from my Self-Defense Options – Weapons class:

See the [FIREARMS page of my website](#)¹ for more resources on this subject.

Have you been thinking about getting your handgun carry license (if required by your state) and carrying a firearm for self-defense? It's a lot more complicated than just getting the license and gun – ask yourself these questions first:

1. Am I someone who is mentally prepared to take someone else's life in the defense of my own or perhaps others?
2. Do I live in a state where the prevailing laws generally recognize my right to stand my ground, no matter where I am, and use deadly force to defend myself, family or others? You might be surprised by the answer to this.
3. Do I live in a state that has laws strictly prohibiting the confiscation of civilians' firearms in the time of civil emergencies?
4. Do I live in a state with laws that strictly prohibit the disclosure of permit holder information (only available to law enforcement) and therefore not subject to Freedom of Information Act disclosures to the public (press)? And, if firearms have to be registered, are there laws that strictly prohibit the disclosure of the names and addresses of weapons' owners (and only available to law enforcement) and therefore not subject to Freedom of Information Act disclosures to the public (press)?
5. Can I/do I have the physical strength, agility and skill necessary to wield a firearm safely and effectively?
6. Will I need a state license to carry a gun? (See #4.)
7. Will I need to register it? (See #4.)
8. How many hoops will I have to jump through to get this license?
9. How much does the license cost initially and how much to renew it and how often?
10. Will I need certification training to carry it? Re-certification training? Cost?
11. Will the Federal Gun Free School Zone Act affect my ability to carry?
12. Where does the law allow me to carry them and where does it not? (public places/transporting in a vehicle)
13. If I have children in my home or who visit my home or individuals with dementia or other mental health concerns, etc., in my home, how will I secure the weapon(s) to ensure safety yet still be able to access it/them quickly if needed? Cost? Do I know the laws, if any, in my jurisdiction regarding the safe storage of firearms?
14. How much does the weapon cost?
15. How much will it cost to maintain the weapon (cleaning equipment, bullets, batteries, cartridges, etc.)?
16. Which one or ones will work best for me? Revolver, Semi-automatic or Derringer*? Bottom line: What is the firearm with which I am most comfortable AND most EFFECTIVE?
17. How effective is it at stopping an attacker? (appropriate caliber)
18. Is it comfortable in my hand? Can I manipulate the controls easily and properly?
19. Can I shoot it repeatedly (practice) without it hurting my hand/wrist/arm? (recoil)

¹ <http://www.magnusomnicorps.com/Firearms.php>

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20. Is it comfortable for me to carry around all day? Do I want to carry it around all day?
21. What kind of holster/carrying device(s) will I need? How many? How much do they cost?
22. Will I have to modify my wardrobe to conceal my weapon? Cost?
23. How much will I have to invest in additional training/range memberships?
24. How much will a self-defense liability insurance policy (or umbrella liability policy) cost me?
25. Finally, am I willing to dedicate the money and time to do all of the above?

Remember, even if you legally defend yourself and the authorities do not charge you, whomever your defended yourself against or their survivors may file a civil lawsuit against you. Talk to your attorney about this and also your auto/home insurance agent about the coverage offered by the umbrella policies they offer. Also, there are several outfits that now offer specific policies for self-defense – see my website for a full list and articles about choosing the right policy for you.

*Depending on the state in which you live, you may only have to qualify with one of these types in order to legally to carry any of the 3 types. For example: In Oklahoma, if you qualify with a semi-automatic pistol, then your license will show that you may carry any of the 3 types of firearms. However, if you qualify with a revolver, you will only be able to carry a revolver or derringer and not a semi-automatic. Be sure to check the laws frequently as they are subject to change.

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Below are **approximate** costs to get started carrying a handgun – requirements vary widely from state to state, therefore, so will the costs. So, for this example, I'm going to assume a 9mm semi-automatic pistol, enough ammo to get you through your carry class and have some left over. You usually don't need a belt or holster to go through the class, however, you will need them for other training classes and you **will** need other training classes. Trust me, you are **not** prepared to carry if you only go through the short carry class and have had no other, extensive experience handling firearms!!!

Remember, I did not factor in other costs associated with changes to your wardrobe to enable you to carry concealed, which I generally recommend.

And, you want a **quality** firearm and holster specifically made for your make and model. Do not scrimp on something you are going to depend upon to defend your life and the life of your loved ones!!

TO JUST GET YOU LEGAL TO CARRY:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Gun | \$400+ |
| 2. Ammo (500 rounds) | \$125 |
| 3. Cleaning kit | \$ 30 |
| 4. Carry Class | \$ 70 |
| 5. Carry Application | \$125-\$225 (5-yr license/10-yr license) |
| 6. Passport photos for lic. | \$ 15 |

TOTAL: \$765 (\$865 if 10-year license)

TO CONTINUE WITH TRAINING AND GET YOU READY TO CARRY:

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|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Holster | \$ 70 |
| 2. Gun belt | \$ 50 |
| 3. 2 add'l magazines | \$ 70 |
| 4. Add'l 2-magazine holder | \$ 30 |
| 5. Training ammo (500 rounds) | \$125 |
| 6. Defensive Ammo (50 rounds) | \$ 30 |
| 7. 1-gun vault | \$300 |
| 8. Additional training | \$200 |
| 8. Self-Defense Insurance policy | \$150 |

TOTAL: \$1025

GRAND TOTAL: \$1,790.00 (or \$1,890 for 10-year license)

This document may be updated from time-to-time.

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