

Gun Gifting

The holidays are just around the corner. As shooters, collectors, hunters or just plain plinkers, it's a natural instinct to want to share our enjoyment of firearms with others. What better way to do that than to make a gift of a firearm to a family member, close friend or relative?

The first thing to remember if you're thinking about giving someone a gun is that ... it's a gun! You already know that ownership of a firearm brings with it some serious legal and ethical obligations that other consumer products don't. So let's look at some questions you may have about giving a firearm as a gift.

The first question you have to ask is whether the intended recipient can legally own the firearm where he or she lives. With more than 20,000 different gun laws nationwide, even the kinds of firearms that law-abiding citizens can own vary from place to place; for example, juveniles (under age 21) generally speaking are precluded by law from possessing a handgun. Check out the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) website for an overview of local laws and, whatever you do, don't forget that you can never under any circumstances transfer a firearm to someone you know, or have reasonable cause to believe, legally can't own one. That's a federal felony, so be careful.

Though there's no federal law that prohibits a gift of a firearm to a relative or friend that lives in your home state, however some states—California for example—require you to transfer the gun through a local firearms dealer so an instant background check will be performed to make sure the recipient is not legally prohibited from owning the gun.

I recommend that if you want to give someone a new firearm, rather than going to a gun store, buying it on your own and giving it to, say, your father, consider instead purchasing a gift card from a retailer and giving the gift card to Dad (or whomever) as his/her present. That way the recipient will get exactly the gun they want and there's no question about who is "the actual buyer of the firearm," which is a question any purchaser must certify on the Form 4473 at the time of purchase. It is perfectly legal to purchase a firearm as a gift if you read the instructions on the Form 4473.

The most important factor to remember is a gun must fit the person and fit the purpose. There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to a firearm. The size of one's hand on a pistol is a crucial factor in how it fits the person. Other measurements are likewise critical on a long gun. It is unwise to purchase a gun for someone



else simply because you believe it is the best gun on the market, especially since it what you carry!

Interstate shipments of firearms must go via a common carrier, and you have to declare that the package contains an unloaded firearm. There are certain regulations to shipping firearms, check with the desired carrier to learn that carrier's rules regarding the shipment of firearms.

What if you want to give your favorite rifle or shotgun, to your son or daughter as a college graduation gift? Again, in most states, there's no law that says you can't, but some of the gun "unfriendly" states require even intra-family transfers to go through a licensed dealer. Remember, you can never transfer a firearm directly to another person who is a resident of a different state. In that case, you must transfer the firearm through a licensed dealer in the state where the person receiving the gift resides. Using a gift card from a firearms retailer that handles that particular type of gun near where the recipient lives is the best solution. Pre-1898 antique firearms are generally exempt from the dealer requirement, as are muzzle loading firearms. Be safe and check with your dealer before you hand over your prized possession. The federally licensed dealer will be more knowledgeable about the law than local law enforcement.



It's often an emotional moment when a treasured family heirloom is passed down to the next generation. These moments are part of what our cherished enjoyment of firearms is all about and represent that unique bond that sportsmen have with their fellow enthusiasts.

So have a Merry Christmas and do it right!

Protect yourself and your family by signing up for a Concealed Carry or other Personal Protection class from Advantage. You'll learn more tips like these, how to protect yourself and essential protection techniques. You will learn how to use your tools to protect yourself and your loved ones. More importantly, you'll be taught how to hopefully never need to use these tools! Learn more about available classes online at www.AdvantageFET.com.

