

Importance of the Concealed Carry Permit

Since Missouri no longer requires a permit to carry a concealed firearm in some instances, let's examine why you should invest your time to take the class and get a permit or why you should renew the permit you already have secured.

One very important reason to secure a concealed carry permit in the State of Missouri is that there are several places where, by statute, one may not carry a firearm. These places are under no obligation to display a sign to inform you of this prohibition. You are responsible to knowing these places.



If you accidentally carry a firearm into one of these places and you have a valid permit, the people in charge may simply request you leave the premises. Even if they summon law enforcement to the scene, the LEO will simply request you depart the scene, if you have a permit. If you do not have a permit, the violation could be a Class B Felony: this sends you to the penitentiary! Let's see – simply walk away upon a polite request, or become a member of a gated community at state expense! This decision requires no thought.

Another common activity for many is to cross the border into another state. People living near a state line do this frequently without reservation. The state line is in the middle of the metropolitan area for many people. We do not need a passport or even have interaction with a border guard. We simply walk or drive across the line. If you are on the highway, there is usually a sign, "Welcome to Illinois, Kansas, Iowa, Tennessee, Arkansas, etc.". We don't give it a second thought. If you cross that line with a concealed firearm and exit your vehicle, again you could be charged with a felony in the new state. While there are several signs welcoming us to the new state and informing us of the speed limit, how far to the next city, etc. the firearms laws are not displayed on the highway signs. We need to know not only the laws in our home state, but in any state in which we may be traveling or temporarily be located.



Records of your permit are closed records. Closed means that information regarding your permit may not be disclosed until ordered by a judge for a bona fide law enforcement

investigation. This is important to know since it is not the case in every state. Some states this information is public record. This is important to know because you are the only person who should know you are carrying your protective equipment.

Taking this a step further. Let's say you are stopped by a law enforcement officer for a traffic offense, or anything else for that matter. In Missouri, you are under no obligation to inform that officer you are carrying a firearm, nor is there a need to do so ordinarily. This can change however if the officer requests you to exit the vehicle or if he requests you produce a document which happens to be in the proximity of your legally possessed firearm. At this point, you will inform the officer that 1. You are licensed to carry a firearm. 2. You have that firearm with you. 3. You need to reach into an area near the firearm. 4. You then ask the officer how he recommends you retrieving the item requested.



Why all these steps? First, (1) you are volunteering information pertinent to the officer's safety. By you informing the officer you have a permit, you are stating you have passed an FBI background check and you are a "good guy". Remember, he cannot see that halo underneath your white hat! He does not have this assurance before initiating this interview with you. You are then telling the officer (2) that you indeed have that firearm accessible. Since you need to reach into the area (3) for the item requested, you are (4) deferring to the officer's authority and seeking guidance on how the officer prefers to have the situation handled. This is all conducted in a safe, friendly manner.

Traffic stops are a great threat to an officer. The officer does not know if you are the "little old lady from Pasadena" or you just robbed the nearby bank and are a fleeing felon! You want to make this encounter as safe and as peaceful as possible for both of you. Remember the officer's primary job is to return home safely after their shift concludes. Without a permit, the officer has no assurances of your good gal/good guy status.

Remember earlier we discussed traveling out of state or simply crossing the state line in normal daily activities. Crossing into any state without a permit can be hazardous to your freedom – crossing into Illinois can be extremely hazardous to your freedom! Illinois is not a gun friendly state. While 38 states recognize a Missouri permit, Illinois is one of few states that will not recognize a Missouri permit, or any other permit for that matter.



Title 18 of the U. S. Code offers protection for travelers:

18 U.S.C. § 926a: Interstate transportation of firearms

Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State of any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly

accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: Provided, that in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

When considering Illinois, IL 430 ILCS 66/40 offers protection for Missouri permit holders not available to someone without a permit:

(e) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a non-resident from transporting a concealed firearm within his or her vehicle in Illinois, if the concealed firearm remains within his or her vehicle and the non-resident:

(1) is not prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm under federal law;

(2) is eligible to carry a firearm in public under the laws of his or her state or territory of residence, as evidenced by the possession of a concealed carry license or permit issued by his or her state of residence, if applicable; and

(3) is not in possession of a license under this Act.

If the non-resident leaves his or her vehicle unattended, he or she shall store the firearm within a locked vehicle or locked container within the vehicle in accordance with subsection (b) of Section 65 of this Act. *(Source: P.A. 98-63, eff. 7-9-13; 98-600, eff. 12-6-13; 99-78, eff. 7-20-15.)

A key portion of this statute is that you not exit your vehicle. This not only means you may not be wandering about on foot, if you simply step one foot out of your vehicle for any reason, such as to pump fuel into your vehicle, you have committed a felony. Again, it is very important you understand the laws of the state in which you plan to traverse.

Several decades ago the federal government instituted *Gun Free School Zones* which clearly state you may not be within 1000 feet of a school with a loaded firearm. You don't want the local U. S. Attorney to charge you with a felony under federal law. A concealed carry permit trumps federal law to protect you if you possess the permit. Even a retired law enforcement officer carrying under the LEOSA provisions may not carry a firearm on school property or in a school zone. This is why even retired LEOs need to possess a concealed carry permit in addition to their LE credentials.



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.