

# Concealed Handgun License: Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q. What are the requirements for obtaining a concealed handgun license in the State of Oregon?**

**A.** You must apply for a concealed handgun license in the county in which you reside.

1. Be a U.S. citizen, or a legal alien who can document continuous residency in the United States for at least six months and has declared, in writing, to the [INS](#) your intent to acquire citizenship ([Form N300](#)).
2. Be at least 21 years of age.
3. Have no legal condition that would prohibit you from possessing a firearm under either Oregon or Federal law.
4. Have no outstanding warrants for your arrest.
5. Not have been dishonorably discharged from the Armed Services.
6. Not be an unlawful user of, or addicted to, a controlled substance.
7. Not be on any form of pre-trial release.
8. Not be required to register as a sex offender in any state.
9. Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor, or found guilty of a misdemeanor within four years prior to application, except under ORS 151.295.
10. Not be subject to a citation issued under ORS 163.735 or an order issued under ORS 30.866, 107.700 to 107.723 or 163.738 (e.g. Stalking or Restraining Orders).
11. Demonstrate competence with a handgun by any one of the following means:
  - Completion of any hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the [State Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) or a similar agency of another state if handgun safety was a component of the course;
  - Completion of any National Rifle Association firearms safety or training course if handgun safety was a component of the course;

- Completion of any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by law enforcement, community college, or private or public institution or organization or firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or a law enforcement agency if handgun safety was a component of the course;
- Completion of any law enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security guards, investigators, reserve law enforcement officers or any other law enforcement officers if handgun safety was a component of the course;
- Presents evidence of equivalent experience with a handgun through participation in organized shooting competition or military service;
- Is licensed or has been licensed to carry a firearm in this state, unless the license has been revoked; or
- Completion of any firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a firearms instructor certified by a law enforcement agency or the National Rifle Association if handgun safety was a component of the course.

**Q. How much does a concealed handgun license cost?**

**A.** The application costs are listed in the table below.

New Application	\$115.00
Renewal License	\$75.00
Transfer Fee	\$30.00
Name Change	\$15.00
Address Change, Replacement	\$15.00

Fees are non-refundable. Only checks or money orders are accepted.

**Q. How do I meet the residency requirement to apply for a concealed handgun license issued by Wheeler County?**

**A.** You may apply for a concealed handgun license in Wheeler County by meeting one of the residency requirements as stated in ORS 166.291(9):

- Possess a current Oregon driver's license showing a residence in Wheeler County.
  - Be registered to vote in Wheeler County and have a precinct memorandum card showing a residence address in Wheeler County.
  - Provide documentation that you currently own or lease real property in Wheeler County.
  - Provide documentation that you filed an Oregon tax return for the most recent tax year with a residence address in Wheeler.
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**Q. How do I obtain an application?**

**A.** Applications are available at the Wheeler County Sheriff's Office, 701 Adams St (POB 345) Fossil, OR 97830. By email: [Pwilliams@co.wheeler.or.us](mailto:Pwilliams@co.wheeler.or.us). By Phone, 541-763-4101.

**Q. Can I check the status of my CHL application online?**

**A.** Not at this time

**Q. Do I need to make an appointment?**

**A.** If you are a New Applicant or a Transfer from another county, you will need to schedule an appointment .

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**Q. How old do I have to be to apply for a concealed handgun license?**

**A.** You must be at least 21 years of age prior to making application for a concealed handgun license.

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**Q. Do I have to be a citizen of the United States to get a concealed handgun license?**

**A.** Yes. The only exception is if you are a legal resident alien who can document continuous residency in the county for at least six months and has declared in writing to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services the intent to acquire citizenship status and can present proof of the written declaration to the sheriff at the time of application for the license.

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**Q. How do I meet the competency requirement to apply for an Oregon license issued by Wheeler County?**

**A.** Proof of competency must be presented at the time of your scheduled appointment. Please do not make an appointment until you have met the competency requirement in one of the following ways:

- Completion of any hunter education or hunter safety course approved by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife or a similar agency of another state if handgun safety was a component of the course;
- Completion of any National Rifle Association firearms safety or training course if handgun safety was a component of the course;
- Completion of any firearms safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by law enforcement, community college, or private or public institution or organization or firearms training school utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or a law enforcement agency if handgun safety was a component of the course;
- Completion of any law enforcement firearms safety or training course or class offered for security guards, investigators, reserve law enforcement officers or any other law enforcement officers if handgun safety was a component of the course;
- Presents evidence of equivalent experience with a handgun through participation in organized shooting competition or military service;
- Is licensed or has been licensed to carry a firearm in this state, unless the license has been revoked; or

- Completion of any firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a firearms instructor certified by a law enforcement agency or the National Rifle Association if handgun safety was a component of the course.
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**Q. I am a veteran with a DD214; does that satisfy the competency requirement for my application?**

**A. Maybe.** If your DD214 specifically states the words *pistol*, *sidearm* or *handgun training*, it would satisfy the requirement. Words such as "small arms" or "marksmanship" alone will not fulfill the statutory requirement.

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**Q. How long are licenses valid?**

**A.** Oregon concealed handgun licenses are valid for four years unless otherwise revoked or denied. If you are transferring your permit from another county the expiration date will remain the same as your current permit.

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**Q. Does Oregon recognize any other state's concealed handgun licenses?**

**A.** No.

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**Q. What will the concealed handgun license allow me to do?**

**A.** A concealed handgun license allows you to carry a loaded or unloaded handgun concealed upon your person or concealed within your control in a car or other means of transportation.

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**Q. Does a concealed handgun license allow me to carry any weapon?**

**A.** No. This is a concealed handgun license. See ORS 166.210(4) for the definition of a handgun.

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**Q. Where do I find more about Oregon concealed handgun license laws?**

**A.** Oregon concealed handgun law can be found online at

[www.leg.state.or.us/ors/166.html](http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/166.html)

Other references to the ORS listed on this page can be found at [www.leg.state.or.us/ors](http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors)

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**Q. Are there places I can't carry my handgun concealed?**

**A.** Yes. There are several locations in which you cannot carry a firearm, even with a concealed handgun license, including:

- **Any federal facility** -- federal courthouses, social security offices, secured areas of airports, airplanes.
- **Posted private property** where the owner prohibits firearms possession, and others.
- **Many private businesses** have conditions regarding the possession of firearms on their premises. If you violate these conditions you could, under certain circumstances, be subject to arrest under Oregon trespass laws, in which case, if convicted, your concealed handgun licensee would be seized and/or revoked.
- **National forests** marked or posted with signs prohibiting all firearms.
- **Indian reservations or property** -- you may not carry a firearm concealed without the written permission of the tribal judge; this may also apply to certain casinos on tribal lands.
- **Courts** -- in a courtroom, jury room, judge's chambers, or adjacent areas that the presiding judge determines should be free of firearms to ensure the safety of litigants, court personnel witnesses, and others.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you plan to carry your handgun, it is important to research the requirements at these locations before you go. Please see the Oregon Revised Statutes for any updated Oregon State restrictions. If in doubt, contact the facility you plan to visit directly to obtain their policy.

For information regarding the Portland airports please contact the [Port of Portland legal department](#).

You need to check with the Port Authority of each airport as other airports in Oregon are under other jurisdictions.

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**Q. What should I do if I already have a Wheeler County license, but I moved to a new address within Wheeler County?**

**A.** ORS 166.295(C)(2) requires that the "licensee shall report the change of address and the sheriff shall issue a new license as a duplication for a change of address. The license shall expire upon the same date as would the original." Failure to do so may result in revocation of your License.

The fee for an address change is \$15. Once the application is completed and if you pass the background check, a new license will be mailed to you.

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**Q. What should I do if I just moved into Wheeler County and I have a concealed handgun license from another County?**

**A.** The concealed handgun license is an Oregon license, but it is administered in the county you reside in. When you change your DMV license you need to transfer your concealed handgun license so that both addresses are the same. Wheeler County will fingerprint you as a result of the transfer application process.

The fee for a transfer is \$15.

The fingerprint fee is \$15.

The total transfer fee including fingerprinting is \$30.

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**Q. What should I do if I move out-of-state or from Wheeler County to another county in Oregon?**

**A.** If you will be transferring your license to another county, register with that county. They will notify us that you are no longer a concealed handgun license holder in Wheeler County. However, if you do not transfer your license to another Oregon county or if you move out of state, you must notify the Wheeler County Sheriff's Office.

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**Q. What should I do if I lose or misplace my concealed handgun license?**

**A.** You should report the loss of your concealed handgun license to the law-enforcement agency in the city or county in which you lost your license. You can apply for a replacement. Once the application is completed, if you pass the background check, a new license will be mailed to you.

The fee for a replacement license is \$15.

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**Q. What do I do if I change my name?**

**A.** You should first report your name-change to the [DMV](#). After you notify DMV of your name change, we can issue a card with your new name.

Your driver's license must display your new name prior to obtaining a new concealed handgun license. Once the application is completed, if you pass the background check, a new license will be mailed to you.

The fee for a name change is \$15.

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**Q. Will I receive notification that my license will expire?**

**A.** Currently, the Wheeler County Sheriff's Office sends email reminders from the provided email listed on your application 45 days prior to your license's expiration. This expiration date is listed on the back of your License.

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**Q. How do I renew my concealed handgun license when it expires?**

**A.** You are not required to be fingerprinted or to provide character references again. Pursuant to ORS 166.295(1)(a), a concealed handgun license is renewable by repeating the procedures set out in ORS 166.291 and 166.292. Once the application is completed, if you pass the background check, a new license will be mailed to you.

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**Q. Do I have to take another handgun safety class to renew my license?**

**A.** No. Your valid or expired concealed handgun license is proof that you attended a handgun safety course.

There are no penalties for letting your license expire. However, without a valid concealed handgun license, you have no authority to carry a handgun concealed.

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**Q. If I'm a resident of another state, but regularly travel through Oregon, will Wheeler County issue me a Concealed Handgun License?**

**A.** No. It is the policy of the Wheeler County Sheriff not to issue concealed handgun licenses to anyone who is not a resident of Wheeler County. Other Oregon counties may have different policies, especially those which border other states. Check with them.

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**Q. What will happen if I have a concealed handgun license but do not have it on my person when I'm stopped by a law enforcement officer and have a concealed handgun in my possession?**

**A.** This is a serious offense and can result in arrest and seizure and revocation of your license.

ORS 166.292(2) states: "Failure of a person who carries a concealed handgun also to carry a concealed handgun license is *prima facie* evidence that the person does not have such a license."

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**Q. If I have been fingerprinted previously and my fingerprints are on file with the Oregon State Police, do I have to be fingerprinted again?**

**A.** Yes. We are mandated by law to fingerprint new applicants for concealed handgun licenses, regardless of whether they have been fingerprinted before.

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**Q. If my fingerprints are on file with the [Oregon State Police](#), as a new applicant do I have to wait to have my concealed handgun license mailed to me?**

**A.** Yes.

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**Q. How long does it take to renew my concealed handgun license?**

**A.** It generally takes about 10 minutes to apply for your renewal application. Assuming there is nothing in your background to preclude you from renewing your license; once your background check is completed, a new license will be mailed to you.

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**Q. How long does it take to get my new concealed handgun license?**

**A.** It generally takes about 20 minutes to process new applications. ORS 166.292 allows the Sheriff 45 days to review your new application, conduct a background check and issue you your new concealed handgun license.

At times we could take up to 45 days, but it is our goal to have your new concealed handgun license in the mail to you within 15 business days. It is safe to assume if there are issues that arise as a result of your background check; it will take 45 days for your new license to be issued or denied.

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**Q. How will I know if my application was denied or my concealed handgun license was revoked?**

**A.** If your concealed handgun license is denied or revoked, you will be sent a certified letter advising you of that fact and the reason for the denial/revocation.

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**Q. What would cause my concealed handgun license to be revoked?**

**A.** Generally, anything that would cause you to be denied a license when you initially applied would cause your concealed handgun license to be revoked. Examples would include: new arrests where you are on a form of pre-trial release, any misdemeanor or felony conviction, being named as the respondent of a restraining order that's in effect.

Please call **541-763-4101** if you have a concern in this area.

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**Q. If my concealed handgun license application is denied or my concealed handgun license is revoked, can I appeal?**

**A.** Yes. Oregon law provides an appeal process for denials and revocations through the filing of a petition through Circuit Court. You have 30 days from the date you receive the revocation letter to appeal the decision. For additional information refer to ORS 166.293(5).

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