

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Concealed Weapon Licensing Policy

The issuance of licenses enabling a private citizen to carry a concealed weapon (CCW) is of great concern to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The Department's overriding policy is that no concealed weapon license should be granted merely for the personal convenience of the applicant. No position or job classification in itself shall constitute good cause for the issuance, or for the denial, of a CCW license. Each application shall be individually reviewed for cause, and the applicant will be notified by writing within 90 days of the application, or within 30 days after receipt of the applicant's criminal background check from the Department of Justice, that the CCW license was either approved or denied.

In accordance with California Penal Code § 26150 *et. seq.*, and subject to Department policy and procedures, any Los Angeles County resident may obtain a CCW application for authorization to carry a concealed weapon. Applications may be obtained from any sheriff's patrol station or directly from the Executive Officer's Office. Completed applications may be submitted to any of these units for processing.

Types of Licensing and Expiration Periods for CCWs

There are four distinct categories of CCW licenses: Employment, Standard, Judges, and Reserve Police Officers. The Employment CCW license is issued only by the sheriff of a county to a person who spends a substantial period of time in his or her principal place of employment or business in the county of issuance. The license is valid only in the county issued and for any period not to exceed 90 days. The Standard CCW license is issued to residents of the county or a particular city within the county. The license is valid for any period not to exceed 2 years. The Judge CCW license may be issued to California judges, full-time commissioners, and to federal judges and magistrates of the federal courts. The license is valid for any period not to exceed 3 years. The Reserve Police Officer CCW license may be issued to reserve police officers appointed pursuant to California Penal Code § 830.6. The license is valid for any period not to exceed 4 years, except that it becomes invalid upon the conclusion of the person's appointment as a reserve police officer.

Training Requirements for a CCW License

Regardless of the category, all new license applicants for CCW's must now pass a specified course of training which is acceptable to the licensing authority, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (See attached sheet, "Suggested Training Vendors"). New CCW license applicants must pass a specified course of training acceptable to the licensing authority. The course shall be no less than eight hours, and shall include instruction on firearm safety, firearm handling, shooting technique, and the

laws regarding the permissible use of a firearm. The course shall also include live-fire shooting exercises on a firing range and shall include a demonstration by the applicant of safe handling of, and shooting proficiency with, each firearm that the applicant is applying to be licensed to carry. Shooting proficiency shall be demonstrated in accordance with LASD standards. (See [REFER TO WHERE STANDARDS ARE POSTED AND/OR TO ATTACHMENT TO THIS POLICY IF PROFICIENCY STANDARDS ARE ATTACHED]). For CCW license renewal applicants, the course of training may be any course acceptable to the licensing authority, shall be no less than four hours, and shall include instruction on firearms safety, the law regarding the permissible use of a firearm and weapon proficiency.

Qualifications for a CCW License

To qualify for a CCW, each applicant must demonstrate (1) proof of good moral character, (2) that good cause exists, and (3) that the applicant is a resident of the county or a city within the county, or, that the applicant spends a substantial period of time in the applicant's place of employment or business in the county or a city within the county. In addition, the applicant must complete the training requirements as listed above.

According to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department policy (5-09/380.10) and the California Supreme Court (CBS, Inc. v. Block, (1986) 42 Cal.3d 646), good cause shall exist only if there is convincing evidence of a clear and present danger to life, or of great bodily harm to the applicant, his spouse, or dependent child, which cannot be adequately dealt with by existing law enforcement resources, and which danger cannot be reasonably avoided by alternative measures, and which danger would be significantly mitigated by the applicant's carrying of a concealed firearm.

The character requirement will be fulfilled by, but not limited to, a criminal history check through the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. The good cause requirement will only be fulfilled by thoroughly justifying the applicant's need to the Sheriff or his designee on the application form. The residency requirement will be fulfilled upon presentation of an approved, recognized identification card and at least one recently canceled item of United States mail.

CCW License Subject to Restrictions

When a license is issued it will be subject to the following general restrictions.

While exercising the privilege granted under the terms of this license, licensees shall not:

1. Consume any alcoholic beverage.
2. Represent to any person that they are peace officers, unless they are in fact peace officers as defined by law.
3. Abuse this privilege by an unjustified display of a deadly weapon.
4. Violate any law of this State or Country.
5. Be under the influence of any medication or narcotic drug.
6. Impede law enforcement officers in the conduct or performance of their duty or activities.
7. Refuse to display their permits or to surrender their concealable firearm to any peace officer for inspection upon demand.

In addition, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department may place special limitations further limiting the time, the place, and the circumstances under which the license is valid. When each license is issued, general restrictions and any special limitations will be noted on the reverse side of the card.

Remember, it is a Privilege, not a right to carry a concealed weapon.

Application for CCW License

Upon reviewing the attached policy and meeting all requirements, please **complete the Standard Application form in its Entirety.** Send completed application to Sheriff's Headquarters, 211 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012, Attention: CCW Coordinator. **A non-refundable fee of \$10.00 Check or Money Order (payable to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department) must accompany your application.** **Incomplete applications will not be processed.** Those who successfully pass the initial screening will be charged a required follow-up processing fee.