

Firearms Application Instructions

July 27, 2022

To All Firearms Applicants:

There has been substantial changes to the Firearms law in the State of NJ recently. Below you will find information for Firearms Purchaser Identification Cards ("FPIC"), Permits to Purchase, and Permits to Carry Firearms. Please be patient since some of the mechanisms in the process have not been fully completed at this time. We will continue to process applications in the hope of having them ready when the remaining processes have been completed. Below are the new required items and information pertaining to the same.

Effective July 5, 2022, N.J.S.A. 2C:58-3 was amended to require applicants who apply for FPICs or permits to purchase handguns to provide proof of firearms training. This training requirement applies to pending applications and permits.

- Applicants are to demonstrate that within four (4) years prior to the date of application; they have satisfactorily completed a course of instruction approved by the Superintendent of State Police in the lawful and safe handling and storage of firearms. **This training has not been determined at this time.**
- Although applicants seeking FPICs or permits to purchase handguns are now required to demonstrate this compliance prior to obtaining their first FPIC or permit, compliance is not required for any subsequent permit to purchase by an applicant.
- Applicants for FPICs are not required to demonstrate compliance in order to replace or renew an existing FPIC.
- These training requirements are not applicable to an active or retired law enforcement officer or a veteran who was honorably discharged as a member of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard and who received substantially equivalent training.
- All FPICs issued after July 5, 2022 are to display a color photograph and thumbprint of the cardholder. The Superintendent of State Police is required to establish guidelines to effectuate the issuance of these new FPICs, which now have to be renewed every ten (10) years. **The Superintendent has not yet done so; therefore, any pending applications cannot be approved until he issues his guidelines.**

Requirements to obtain a Permit to Carry:

Under N.J.S. 2C:58-4d., a person must satisfy the Court that he/she is:

1. a person of good character and not subject to the disabilities of N.J.S. 2C:58-3c.;
2. thoroughly familiar with the use and safe handling of the handgun.

“Good character” is based on the disqualifications listed under N.J.S. 2C:58-3c. However, it could also be based on subjective standards, such as “in the interest of public health, safety or welfare” or merely for being named on the Federal Terrorist Watchlist. “Good character” disqualifications may include any person who:

1. has been convicted of a crime or a disorderly persons offense involving an act of domestic violence;
2. is drug dependent;
3. has been confined for a mental disorder to a hospital or mental institution;
4. is a habitual drunkard;
5. suffers from a physical defect or disease which would make it unsafe to handle firearms;
6. is an alcoholic;
7. **falsifies information** on the application form (**A Crime of the Third Degree**);
8. is under the age of 18;
9. is a person where the issuance would not be in the interest of public health, safety or welfare;
10. is a person subject to a court order under the Domestic Violence Act prohibiting firearm possession;
11. is a person who as a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime and involved the unlawful use or possession of a weapon, explosive or destructive device or was one of the offenses enumerated under the No Early Release Act (NERA), which include murder, aggravated manslaughter, manslaughter, vehicular homicide, aggravated assault, disarming a law enforcement officer, kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, robbery, carjacking, aggravated arson, burglary, extortion, booby traps in CDS manufacturing or distribution facilities, strict liability for drug induced deaths, terrorism, possessing chemical weapons, biological agents, or nuclear devices, and first degree racketeering;
12. is a person whose firearm is seized pursuant to the “Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991,” C.2C:25-17 et seq. and whose firearm has not been returned;
13. is named on the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist maintained by the Terrorist Screening Center administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
14. any person who is subject to a court order prohibiting the custody, control, ownership, purchase, possession, or receipt of a firearm or ammunition issued pursuant to the “Extreme Risk Protective Order Act of 2018,” P.L.2018, c.35 (C.2C:58-20 et al.).

What constitutes “safe handling” of a firearm under New Jersey law?

Safe handling of a firearm is an objective standard met by meeting the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:54-2.4(b).

Each applicant shall demonstrate a thorough familiarity with the safe handling and use of handguns by indicating in the space provided therefor on the application form, and on any sworn attachments thereto, any relevant information. Thorough familiarity with the safe handling and use of handguns shall be evidenced by:

1. Completion of a firearms training course substantially equivalent to the firearms training approved by the Police Training Commission as described by N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6j;
2. Submission of an applicant’s most recent handgun qualification scores utilizing the handgun(s) he or she intends to carry as evidenced by test firings administered by a certified firearms instructor of a police academy, a certified firearms instructor of the National Rifle Association, or any other recognized certified firearms instructor; or
3. Passage of any test in this State’s laws governing the use of force administered by a certified instructor of a police academy, a certified instructor of the National Rifle Association, or any other recognized certified instructor.

The following instructions are the same for the initial and renewal application

YOU MUST APPLY IN PERSON

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AT TIME OF APPLICATION:

1. **Completed** *State of New Jersey Application for Permit to Carry a Handgun*, (S.P. 642 <https://www.njsp.org/firearms/pdf/sp-642.pdf>) in **triplicate**. All references must know the applicant for a minimum of three (3) years prior to the date of the application. All original copies must be **double sided** and **notarized**.
2. Driver’s License **and** Birth Certificate OR Driver License **and** Naturalization Paperwork/Green Card
3. Submit **four** color passport size photographs with your application package.
4. **Completed** *Consent for Mental Health Search* (S.P. 066 https://www.njsp.org/firearms/pdf/sp-066_201907.pdf)
5. Written proof of qualification and ownership with the handgun(s) you intend on carrying if your application is approved.

a. Proof of ownership can be a purchase receipt or purchase permit or a notarized letter of ownership listing make, model, and serial number of handgun(s).

b. Written qualification must be within six (6) months of application and must include Instructor's Name and Certification Number, make, model, caliber and serial number of handgun(s) you intend to carry.

6. Receipt from IDENTOGO showing fingerprinting was completed.

****ALL APPLICANTS (INITIAL AND RENEWAL) FOR PERMIT TO CARRY A HANDGUN MUST BE FINGERPRINTED. YOU CAN VISIT <https://www.identogo.com/> TO SCHEDULE A FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT. (Hackensack ORI- NJ0022300 Service Code 2F164B)**

7. A money order in the amount of \$50.00 payable to: "Treasurer, State of New Jersey"

**** IF ANY OF THE PRECEDING IS NOT COMPLETE OR INCORRECT THE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED AND YOU WILL HAVE TO RE-APPLY.**

**** THE REQUIRED WRITTEN FIREARMS QUALIFICATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.A.C. 13:54-2.4(B), CAN BE OBTAINED AT MOST FIREARM RANGES THROUGH OUT THE STATE. A LIST IS ALSO AVAILABLE HERE: <https://www.njsp.org/firearms/shooting-ranges.shtml>**

**** A NEW JERSEY PERMIT TO CARRY IS VALID FOR TWO (2) YEARS FROM TIME OF APPROVAL.**

All applications shall be submitted to the law enforcement agency where the applicant resides.

All armored car guard applications shall be submitted to the appropriate New Jersey State Police Barracks.

Forms available at: <https://www.njsp.org/firearms/forms.shtml>