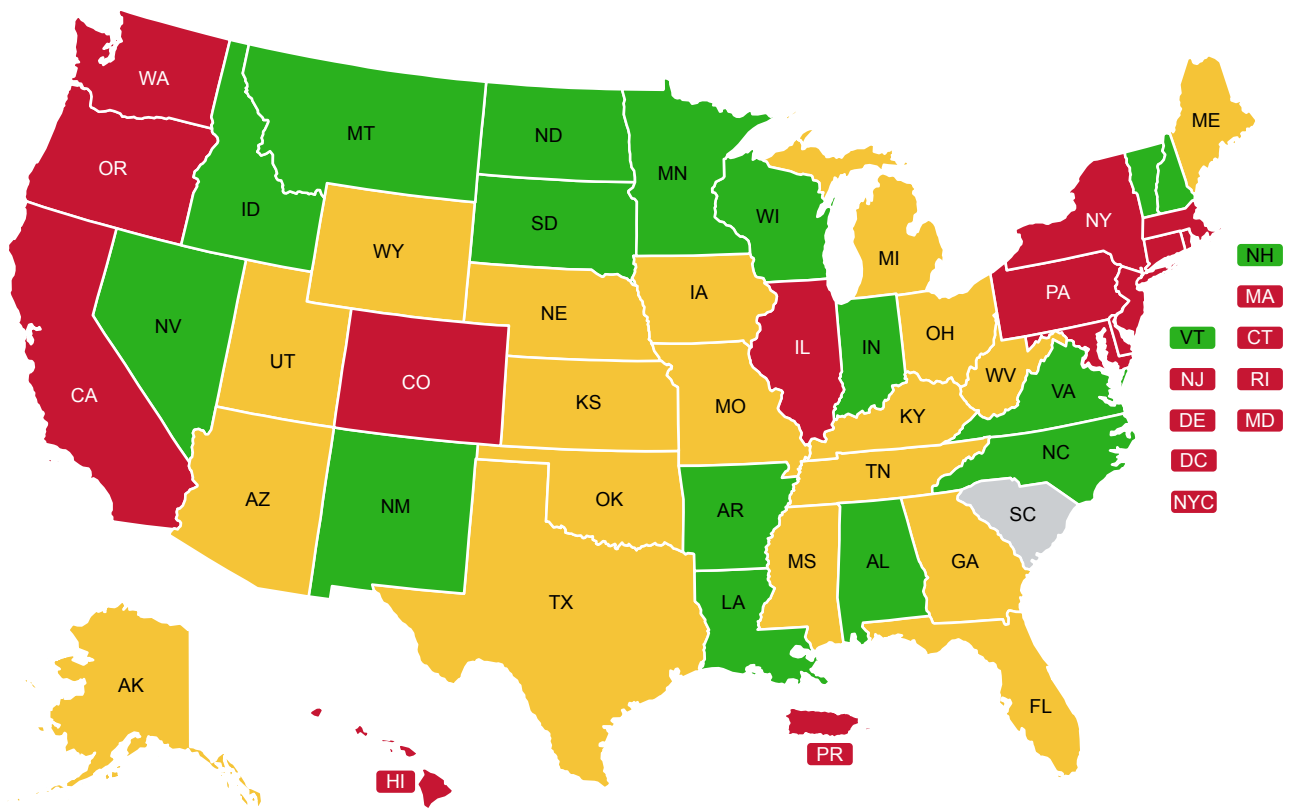


South Carolina Concealed Carry Reciprocity Map & Gun Laws



Carry allowed with my South Carolina permit?

No

Yes

Yes, Selected State(s)

Have concealed carry permits from more than one state?

Check out our new Multi-State Permit Tool [here!](#)

ATTORNEYS IN USCCA NETWORK

USCCA CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

NEED ANSWERS NOW?

There's a lot of information here, so our Customer Engagement Team is always ready to help:

Summary of South Carolina Gun Laws

South Carolina is a [shall-issue](#), [permitless carry](#) state with concealed weapons permits issued at the state level by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

There is no permit, background check or firearms registration required when buying a handgun from a private individual.

As of March 7th, 2024, [open carry](#) as well as [concealed](#)

carry is legal without a permit to anyone 18 years of age or older that is not prohibited by law. A "concealable weapon" means a firearm having a length of less than 12" in length carried openly on one's person or in a manner that is hidden from public view in normal wear of clothing except when needed for self defense, defense of others, and the protection of real or personal property. Areas that are off-limits to concealed carry are also off-limits to open carry. In addition, private properties posted with signs stating 'No Concealable Weapons Allowed' prohibit both open and concealed carry.

CWPs are issued to residents, non-residents who own property in the state and military personnel stationed in South Carolina. Concealed carry permits require an 8-hour firearms training course that has been approved by the state. The minimum age to obtain a CWP is now 18 years old. In terms of [reciprocity](#), South Carolina honors resident permits from states that recognize South Carolina permits, provided that the reciprocal state requires an applicant to successfully pass a criminal background check and a course in firearm training and safety. Some areas are off-limits, including schools and courthouses.

Self-Defense

South Carolina is a [Castle Doctrine](#) state. A person who is

not engaged in an unlawful activity and who is attacked in a place where he or she has a right to be has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground.

A person is presumed to have a reasonable fear of imminent peril of death or great bodily injury to himself or herself or another person when using deadly force that is intended or likely to cause death or great bodily injury to another person if the person:

- Against whom the deadly force is used is in the process of unlawfully and forcefully entering, has unlawfully and forcibly entered a dwelling, residence or occupied vehicle, or if he removes or is attempting to remove another person against his will from the dwelling, residence or occupied vehicle; and
- Who uses deadly force knows or has reason to believe that an unlawful and forcible entry or unlawful and forcible act is occurring or has occurred.

A person who is not engaged in an unlawful activity and who is attacked in another place where he or she has a right to be, including but not limited to his place of business, has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his ground and meet force with force, including deadly force, if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily injury to himself or herself or another person or to prevent the commission of a violent crime.

“Dwelling” means a building or conveyance of any kind, including an attached porch, whether the building or conveyance is temporary or permanent, mobile or immobile, which has a roof over it, including a tent, and is designed to be occupied by people lodging there at night.

“Residence” means a dwelling in which a person resides either temporarily or permanently or is visiting as an invited guest.

“Vehicle” means a conveyance of any kind, whether or not motorized, which is designed to transport people or property.

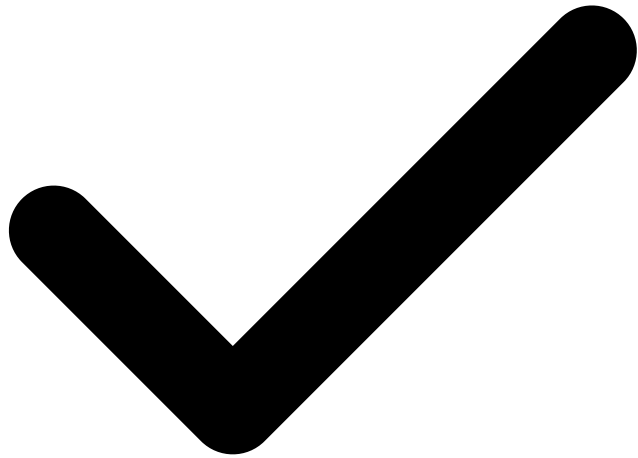
[S.C. Code Ann. § [16-11-440](#)]

South Carolina Gun Laws at a Glance

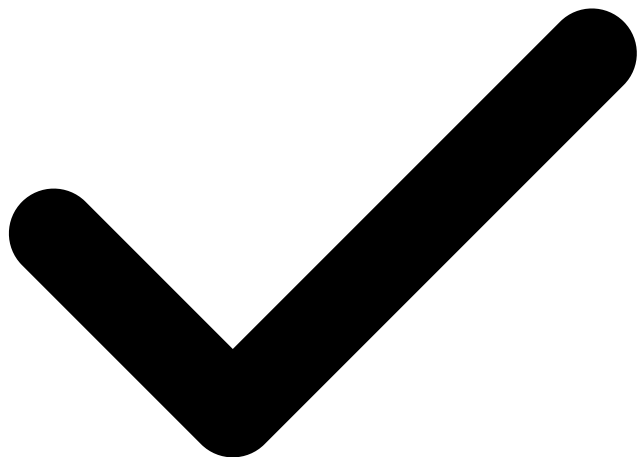
Carry Basics	

Constitutional
Carry?

Does South
Carolina allow
constitutional
carry?



Yes. As of March 7th, 2024.



Open Carry
Permitted?

Is open carry
permitted in
South Carolina?

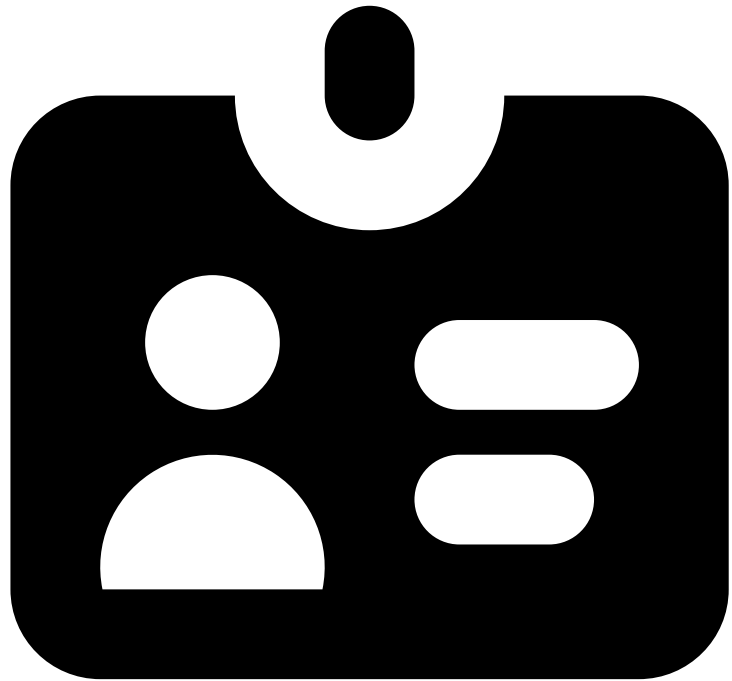
Yes, as of March 7th, 2024, open carry is legal without a permit. However, municipalities may temporarily restrict the otherwise lawful open carry of a firearm on public property when a permit is issued for a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event by posting signs prohibiting concealable weapons.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-210\(5\)](#)]

Open carry is prohibited in city-owned buildings (without written permission from the city manager) during protests, festivals and other events that need a city permit in the city of Columbia.

Gun Permit
Licensure?

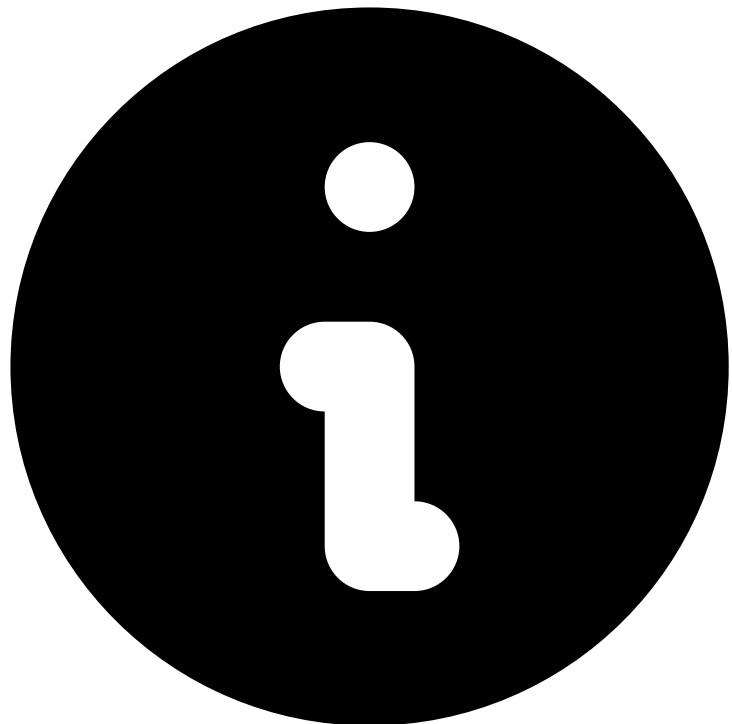
If South Carolina
requires a permit
to carry a
concealed
firearm, how are
those permits
issued?



South Carolina is a shall-issue state.

Minimum Age for
Concealed Carry?

What is the
minimum age in
South Carolina to

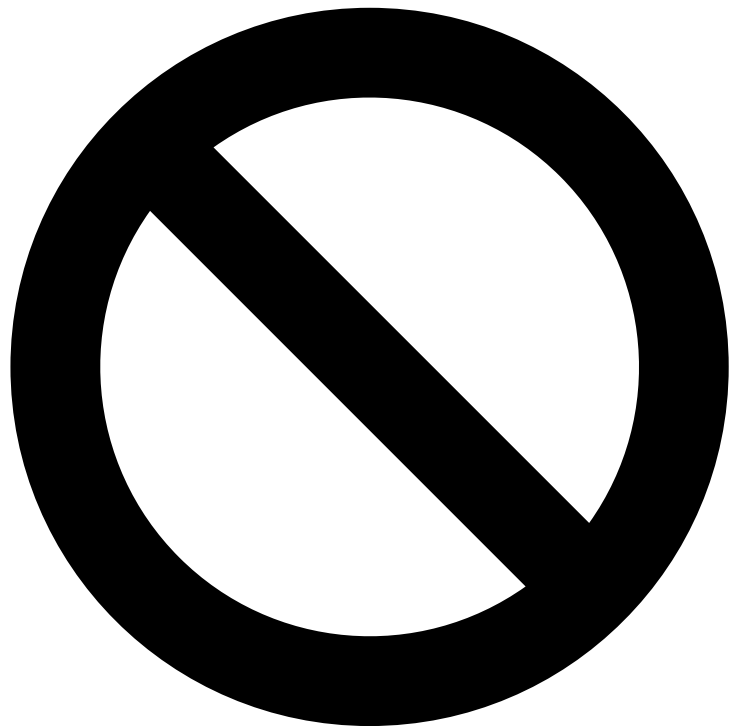


get a concealed
carry permit?

The minimum to carry concealed in South
Carolina is 18.

Weapons Other
Than Handguns
Allowed?

Can you
concealed carry
weapons other
than handguns in
South Carolina



No. "Concealable weapon" means a firearm
having a length of less than 12" in length
carried openly on one's person or in a
manner that is hidden from public view in
normal wear of clothing except when

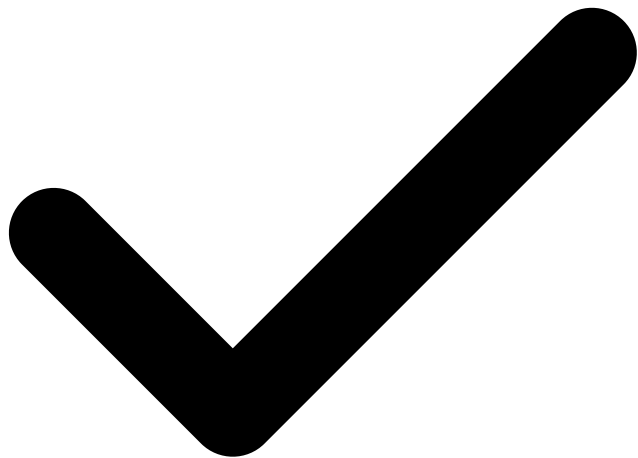
with a concealed carry permit (or under permitless carry if applicable)?

needed for self defense, defense of others, and the protection of real or personal property.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-210\(5\)](#)]

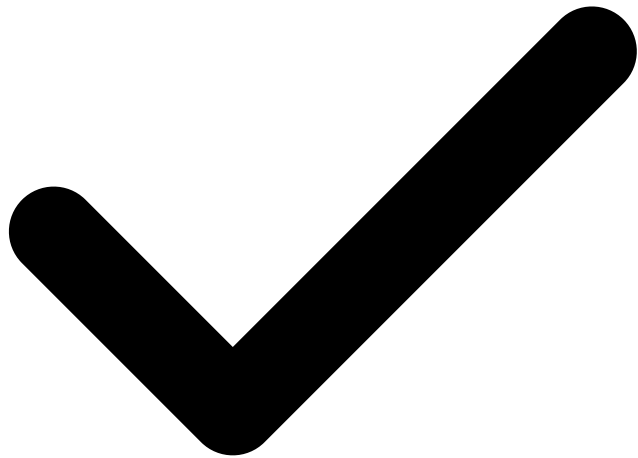
Tasers or Stun Guns?

Is it legal to own a taser or stun gun



in South Carolina?

Yes. Stun guns and [Tasers](#) are legal to purchase and possess without a permit.



Chemical
Spray/Pepper
Spray?

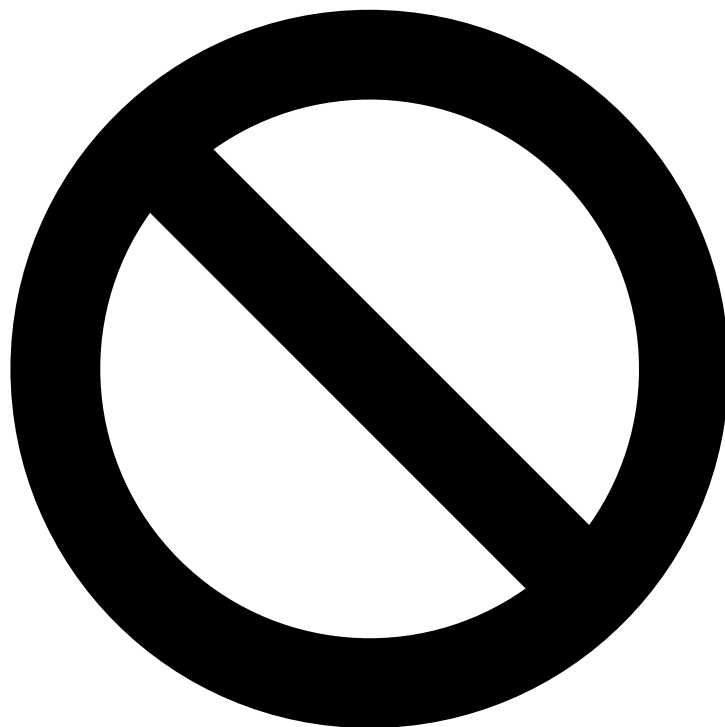
Is it legal to buy or
use chemical
spray/pepper
spray in South
Carolina?

Yes, it is lawful to possess a container not exceeding 50cc of tear gas for self-defense purposes only.

[\[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-470\]](#)

MAGAZINE
LIMITS FOR
HANDGUNS?

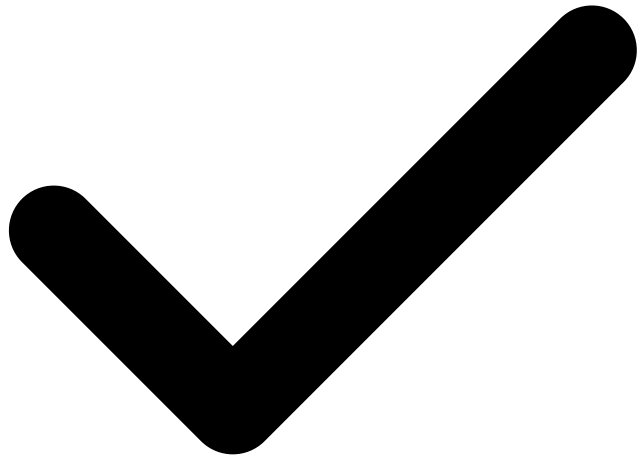
Does South
Carolina have
magazine
capacity
restrictions for
handguns?



No. South Carolina does not regulate
magazine capacity for handguns.

AMMUNITION RESTRICTIONS?

Does South
Carolina have
ammunition
restrictions?



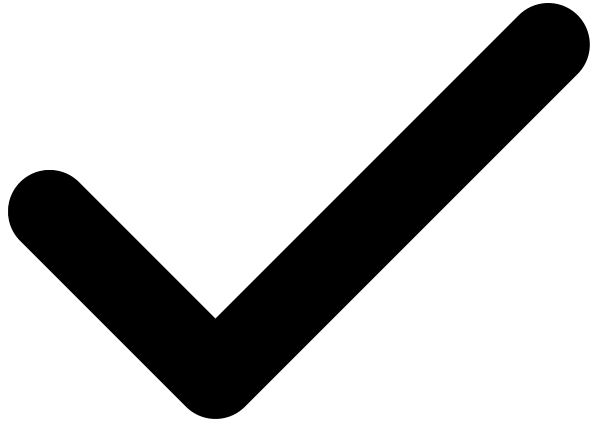
Yes. The possession and sale of teflon-coated ammunition is prohibited.

[\[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-520\]](#)

Carry Locations

CARRY IN VEHICLE?

Can you carry a concealed handgun in a vehicle in South Carolina?

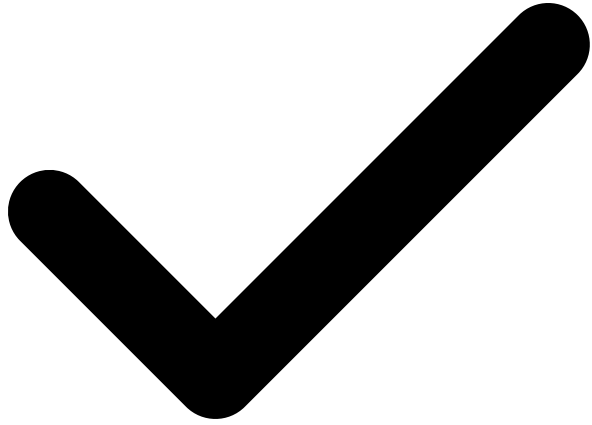


Yes, as of March 7th, 2024, permitless transport or carrying of a firearm in a vehicle on or about one's person, whether openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded, in a manner not prohibited by law is allowed.

[\[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-20\]](#)

CARRY AT ROADSIDE
REST AREAS?

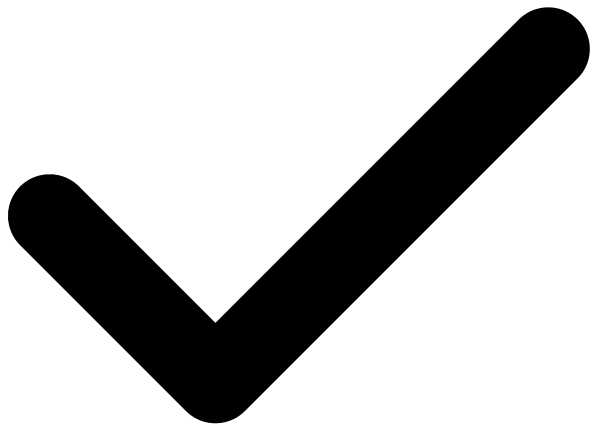
Can you carry a
concealed firearm at
roadside rest areas in
South Carolina?



Yes, as of March 7th, 2024, you may
carry at roadside rest areas without a
permit.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-420\(f\)](#)]

CARRY IN
STATE/NATIONAL
PARKS,
STATE/NATIONAL



FORESTS AND
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
AREAS (WMAS)?

Can you carry a
concealed firearm in
state/national parks,
state/national forests
and Wildlife
Management Areas
in South Carolina?

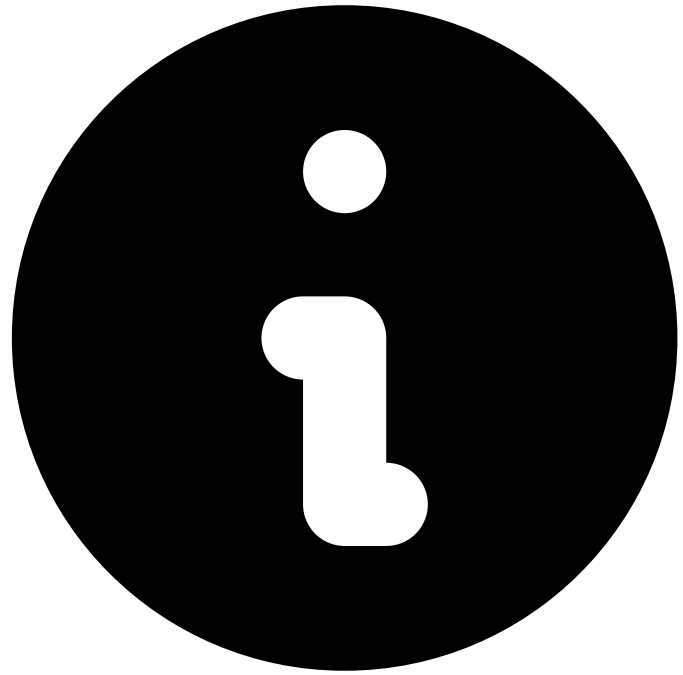
Yes, with a South Carolina Concealed
Weapons Permit or a license/permit
from a state that South Carolina honors.
See the [National Parks webpage](#) for
links to each Park in South Carolina.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 51-3-145\(G\)](#) and [S.C.
DNR Public Lands Regulations § 123-
203\(B\)](#)]

STORE IN A VEHICLE

IN AN EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT?

Does South Carolina have laws relating to storing firearms in private vehicles in an employee parking lot?

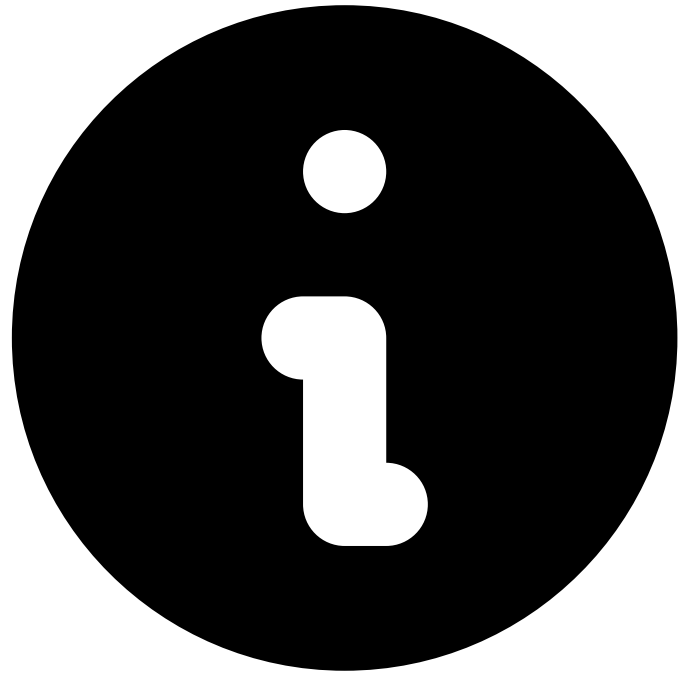


A public or private employer may post signage prohibiting concealed and/or openly carried firearms on the premises of the business or work place. They may also prohibit firearms while using any machinery, vehicle, or equipment owned or operated by the business.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-220](#)]

CARRY/POSSESS AT A HOTEL?

Can you carry or possess a firearm on hotel property in South Carolina?

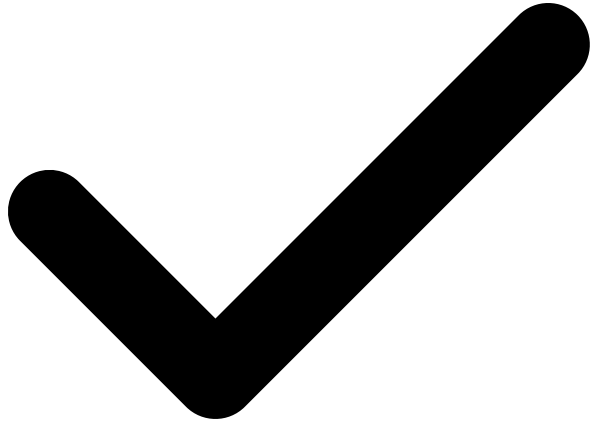


An innkeeper may refuse or deny any accommodations, facilities, or privileges of a lodging establishment to a person whom the innkeeper reasonably believes is bringing in property which may be dangerous to other persons including, but not limited to, firearms or explosives. The innkeeper may also eject a person from the lodging establishment premises for that reason. The individual hotel should be contacted to inquire about its concealed carry policy. See the [Handguns at Hotels page](#) for additional information.

[[S.C. Code Ann. §§ 45-2-30\(A\)\(1\)\(4\) and 45-2-60](#)]

CARRY IN
BARS/RESTAURANTS
THAT SERVE
ALCOHOL?

Can you carry a
concealed firearm in
bars and restaurants
that serve alcohol in
South Carolina?



Yes

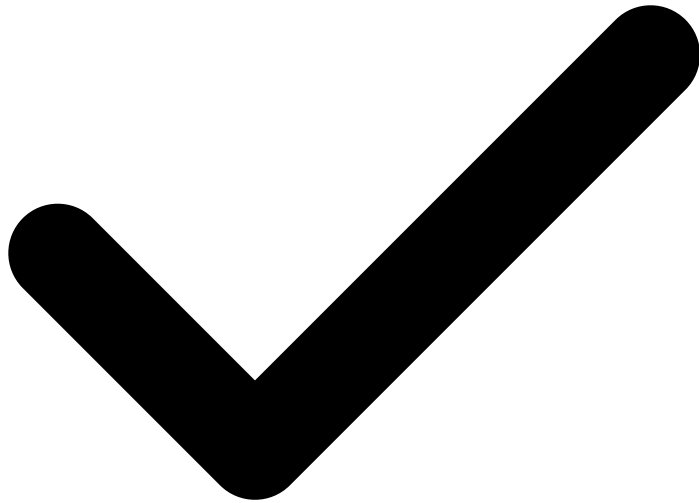
[[S.C. Code Ann. §16-23-465](#)]

Key State Laws

Duty to
Inform Officer
You're

Carrying?

Do you have a duty to inform a police officer that you're carrying a concealed firearm in South Carolina?



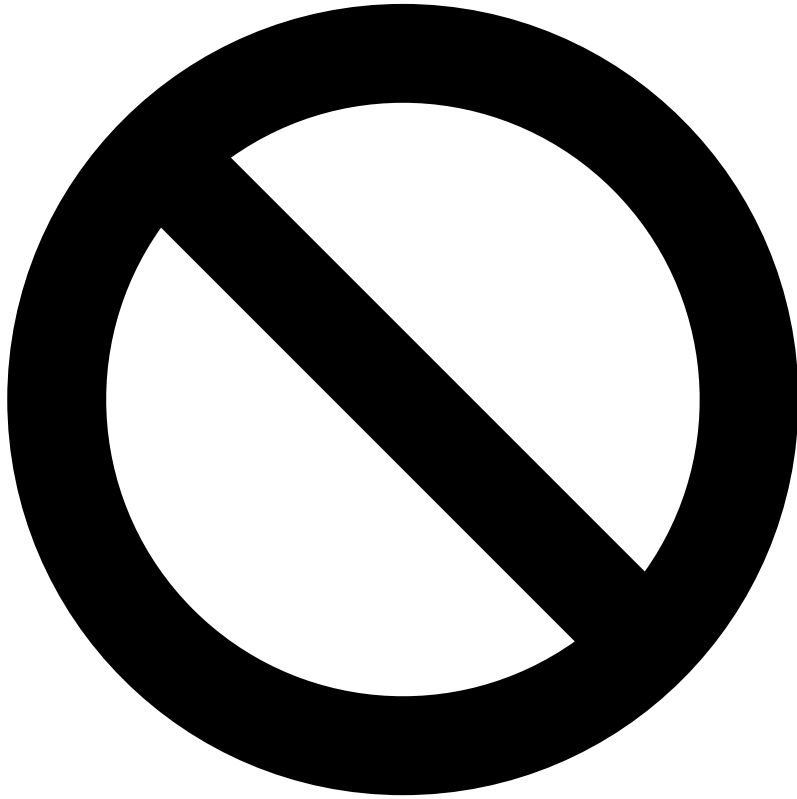
No. You do not have a [duty to inform](#) a police officer as of March 7th, 2024.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-215\(K\)](#)]

DRIVER'S
LICENSE
LINKED TO

CCW
LICENSE?

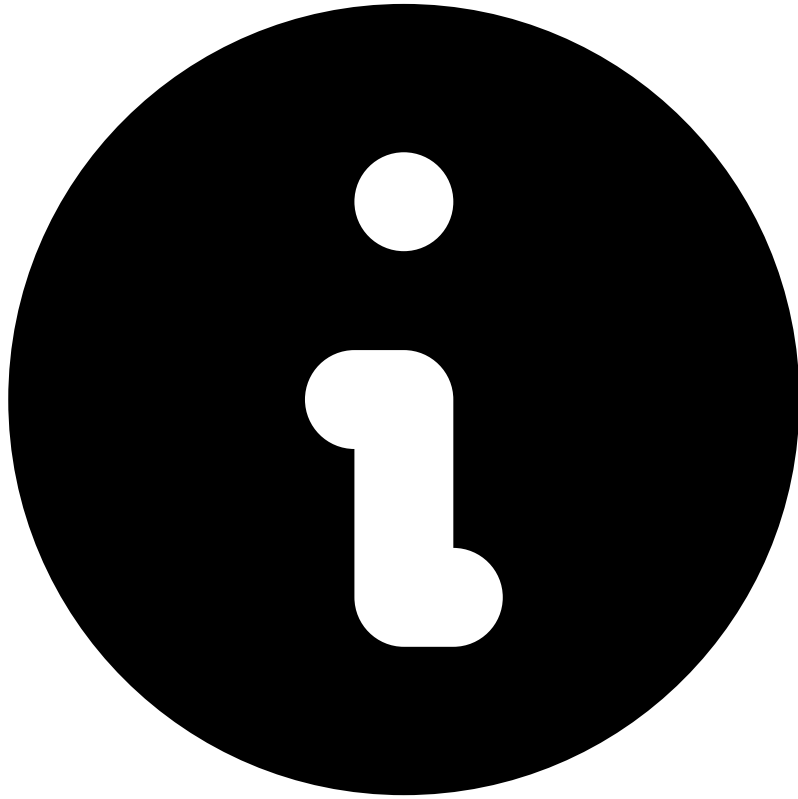
Is my South
Carolina
driver's
license linked
to my South
Carolina CCW
license?



No.

Preemption?

Does South Carolina have preemption laws related to concealed carry (i.e. Does state law supersede local laws regarding the possession of handguns)?

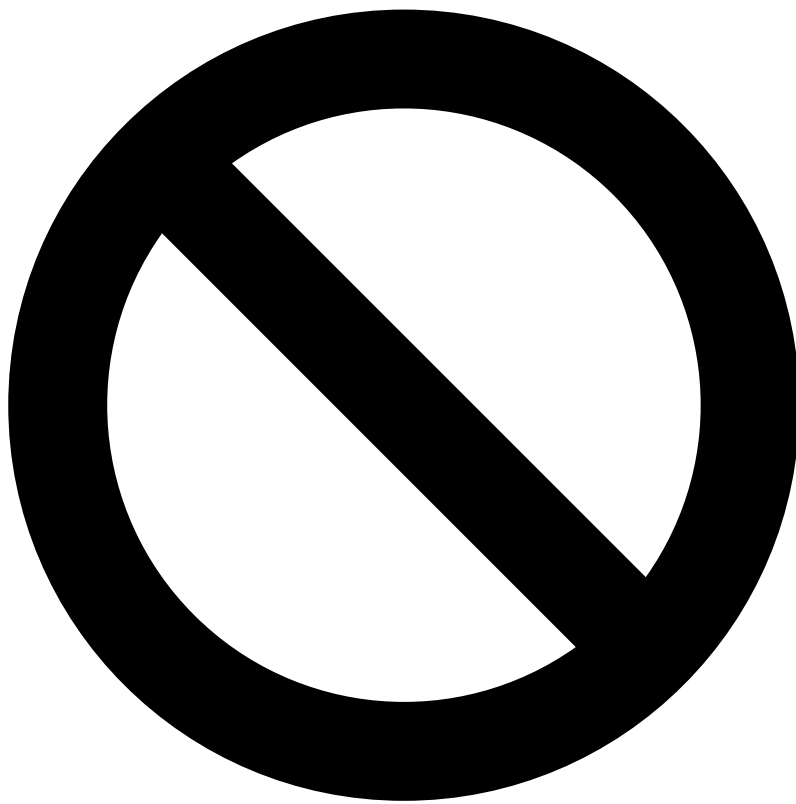


The state has [preemption](#) of firearms laws in South Carolina, except municipalities may regulate the careless or negligent discharge of firearms and may temporarily restrict the otherwise lawful open carry of a firearm on public property when a permit is issued for a public protest, rally, fair, parade, festival, or other organized event by posting signs prohibiting concealable weapons. A governing body putting a restriction on open carry needs to give a specific area, duration, and manner for the restriction and provide prior notice of the restriction. The restriction may also not be extended past the start and end of the event, and an event can't be scheduled for a length of time to abuse this part of the law.

[[S.C. Code Ann. §§ 23-31-510](#) and [S.C. Code](#)

Red Flag
Law?

Does South
Carolina have
a red flag
law?

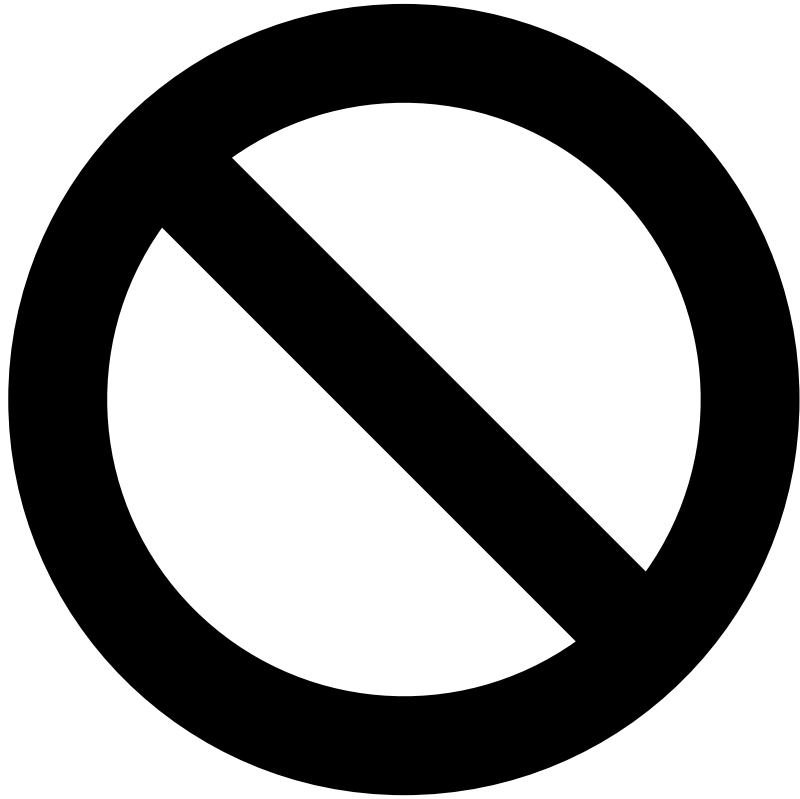


No. South Carolina does not have a [red flag law](#). Although the state has preemption, the City of Columbia passed an ERPO ordinance in September 2019.

[[Columbia Ord. No. 2019-056](#)]

Brandishing?

Does South
Carolina state
law define
brandishing?

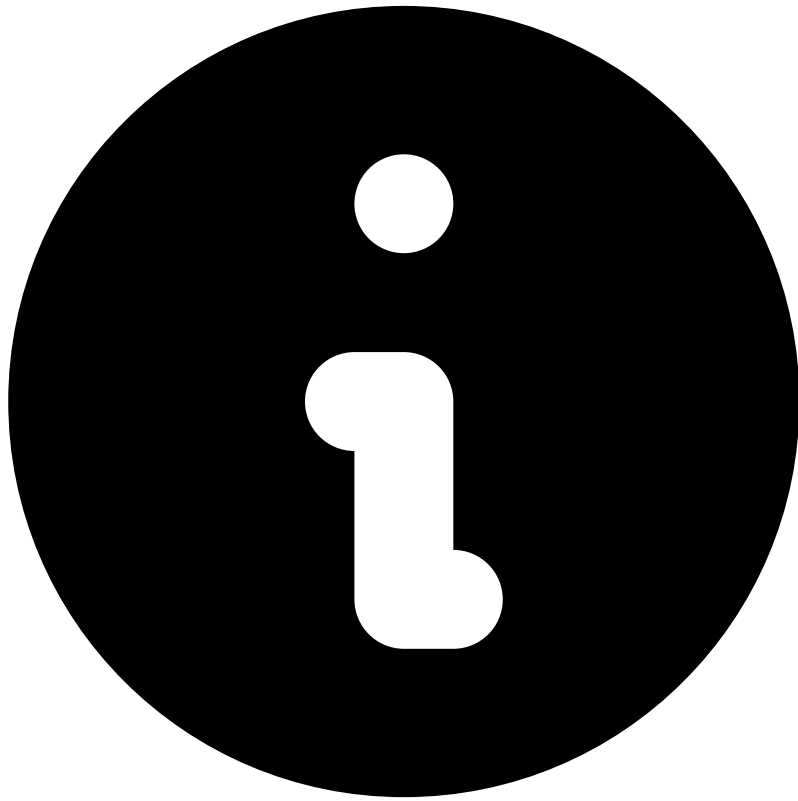


No definition of [brandishing](#) was found in South Carolina law. However, it is unlawful for a person to present or point at another person a loaded or unloaded firearm. This section must not be construed to abridge the right of self-defense or to apply to theatricals or like performances.

[[S.C. Code § 16-23-410](#)]

Carry While
Using Alcohol
or Controlled
Substances?

Does South
Carolina have
laws
regarding
carrying a
concealed
firearm while
using alcohol
or controlled
substances?



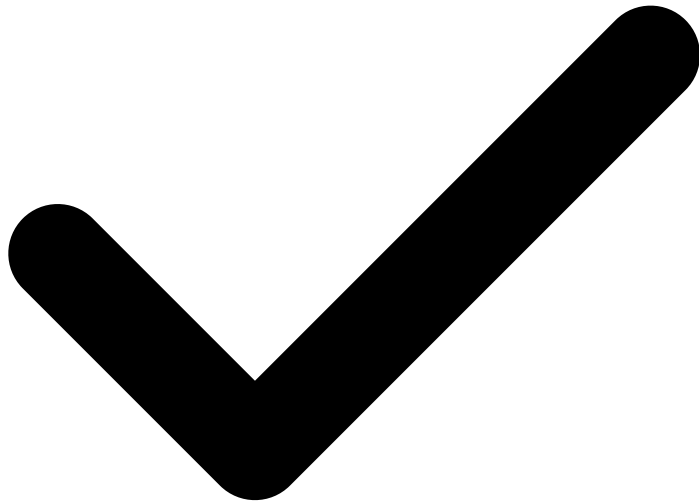
Not while consuming or under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

[\[S.C Code Ann. § 23-31-400\]](#) [\[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-465\]](#)

As a responsibly armed American, regardless of the laws in your state, it is unwise to carry while under the influence of any substance that could impair your judgement, slow your reaction times, or impact your decision-making abilities. Any decision you make while carrying a firearm could have life-altering consequences.

NON-
RESIDENT
PERMITTING?

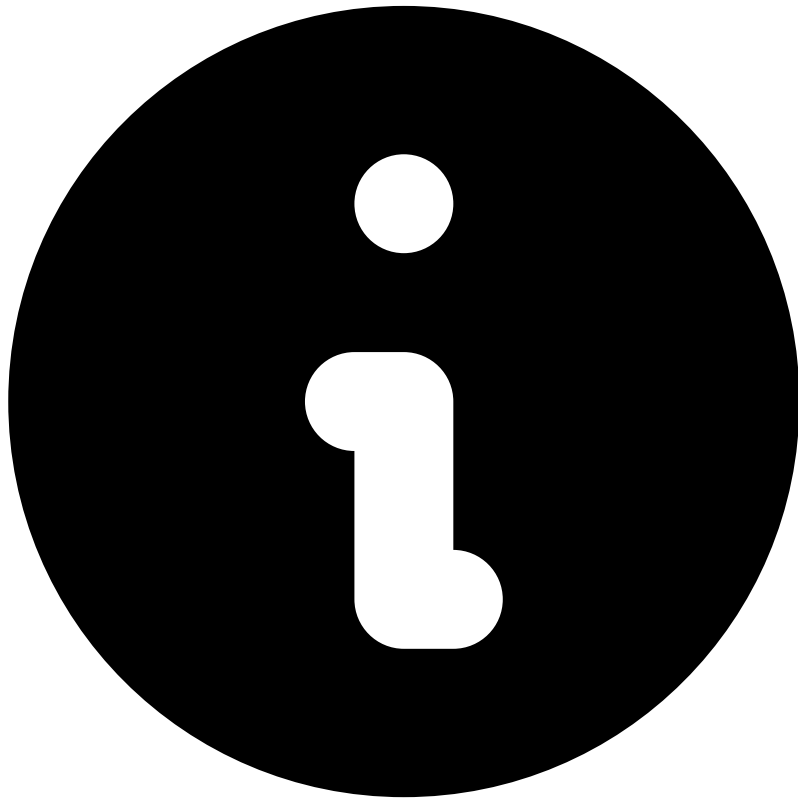
Does South
Carolina issue
concealed
carry permits
to non-
residents?



Yes, to non-residents who own property in the state and military personnel stationed in South Carolina.

PUBLIC
ACCESS TO
CONCEALED
CARRY
REGISTRY?

Does South
Carolina allow
the public to
access
concealed
carry registry
information
through
public
records law?

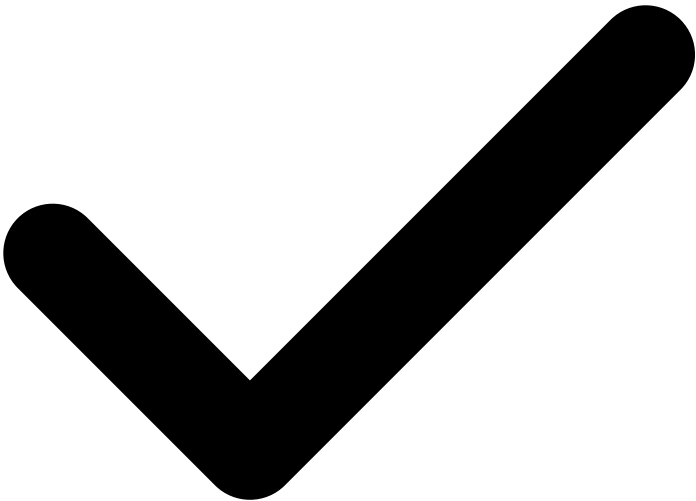


South Carolina makes the information available for law enforcement. In addition, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) must publish a report annually during the first quarter which includes detailed information regarding individuals who have had their permit revoked and the reason for the revocation.

"No Weapons
Allowed"
Signs
Enforced?

Are "No
Weapons
Allowed"

signs enforced in South Carolina? If yes, violating the sign would be considered to be a crime. If no, violating the sign would not be considered a criminal offense.



Yes. All signs must be posted at each entrance into a building where a concealable weapon permit holder is prohibited from carrying a concealable weapon, whether openly or concealed and must read, 'NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED'.

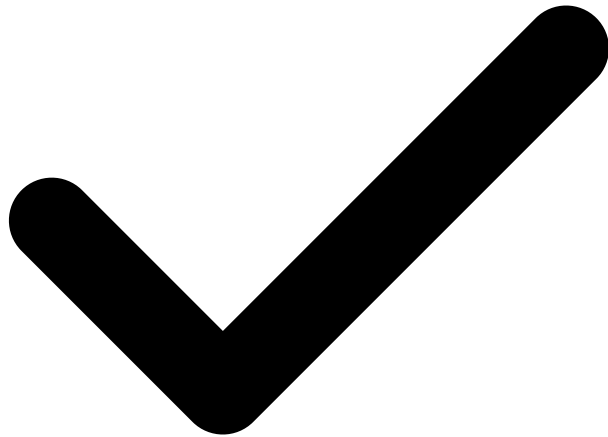
[[S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-235](#) and, as of 8/16/2021, [§ 23-31-220](#)]

Handgun Purchase & Possession

SOUTH CAROLINA

PERMIT EXEMPTS
FROM
BACKGROUND
CHECK?

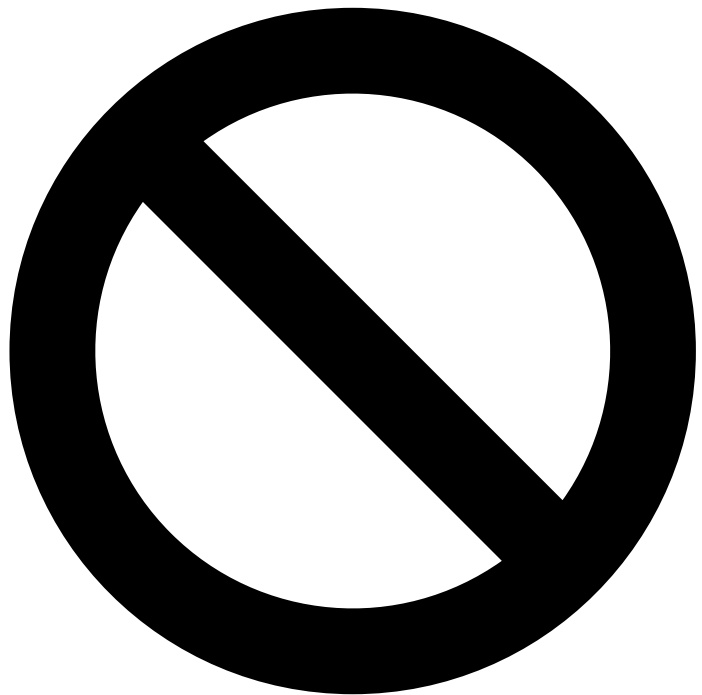
Does my current
South Carolina
concealed carry
permit exempt me
from needing a
background check
when I purchase a
firearm?



Yes.

WAITING PERIOD?

Is there a waiting
period after
purchasing a
handgun in South
Carolina?



No. There is no waiting period required
when buying a handgun in South

Carolina.

HANDGUN REGISTRATION?

Do handguns need
to be registered in
South Carolina?



No. Handgun registration is not required
in South Carolina.

MINIMUM AGE TO POSSESS AND TRANSPORT?

What is the
minimum age to
possess and
transport a handgun
in South Carolina?

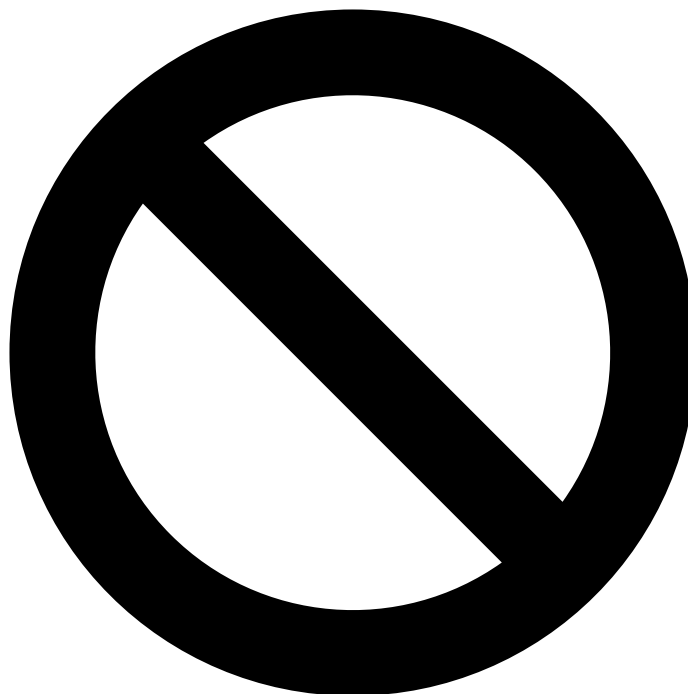


You must be at least 18 years old to possess or transport a handgun in South Carolina.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-30](#)]

PURCHASE PERMITS?

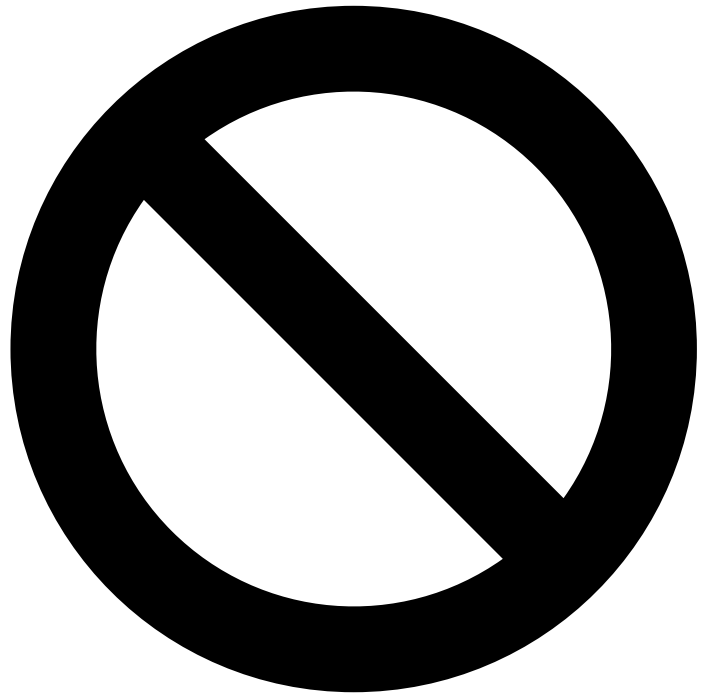
Is a permit required to purchase a handgun in South Carolina?



No. You are not required to obtain a permit before purchasing a handgun in South Carolina.

BACKGROUND
CHECKS FOR
PRIVATE GUN
SALES?

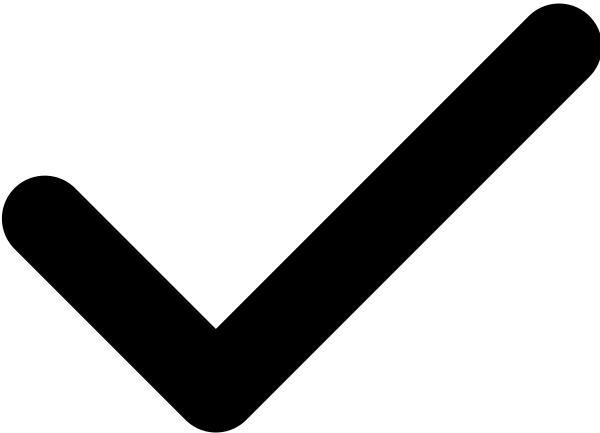
Are background
checks required for
private gun sales in
South Carolina?



No. Private firearms transfers are not subject to a background check requirement, although federal and state purchaser prohibitions, including age restrictions, still apply. It is recommended that you retain any sales receipts to prove ownership of the gun.

POSSESS A
HANDGUN ON MY
PRIVATE PROPERTY
WITHOUT A
PERMIT?

Can I possess/carry
a handgun in my
home without a

permit?	 Yes.
---------	--

Related Blog Posts

[South Carolina Gun Laws: What You Need to Know](#)USCCA -
APRIL 29, 2019

[Basic Concealed Carry Laws: South Carolina](#)USCCA -
AUGUST 16, 2020

**Have Questions? Contact Our Award-Winning,
Wisconsin-Based
Member Services Team 24/7 at 800-674-9779**

STATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION

A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." ARTICLE 1, § 20

South Carolina Concealed Carry Reciprocity With Other States

Which states' permits does South Carolina honor?

[Alabama](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Alaska](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Arizona](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Arkansas](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[California](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Colorado](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Connecticut](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Delaware](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[District of Columbia](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Florida](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Georgia](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Hawaii](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Idaho](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Illinois](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Indiana](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Iowa](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Kansas](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Kentucky](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Louisiana](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Maine](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Maryland](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Massachusetts](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Michigan](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Minnesota](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Mississippi](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Missouri](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Montana](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Nebraska](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Nevada](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[New Hampshire](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[New Jersey](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[New Mexico](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[New York](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[New York City](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[North Carolina](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[North Dakota](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Ohio](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Oklahoma](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Oregon](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Pennsylvania](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Puerto Rico](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Rhode Island](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[South Dakota](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Tennessee](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Texas](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Utah](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Vermont](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Virginia](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Washington](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[West Virginia](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Wisconsin](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Wyoming](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[South Carolina honors resident permits](#) from some states, provided that the state requires an applicant to successfully pass a criminal background check and a course in firearm training and safety. The minimum age is 18 years old.

Other States' Reciprocity With South Carolina

Which states honor permits from South Carolina?

[Alabama](#) (permitless carry, at least 19 years old)

[Arkansas](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Idaho](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Indiana](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Montana](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[New Hampshire](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[North Dakota](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[South Dakota](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Vermont](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

Note: Firearms must be carried in accordance with the laws of the state you are visiting. Be sure to check the laws of the other state before traveling there with your firearms.

States That Have Restricted Reciprocity with South Carolina

South Carolina offers resident and non-resident (people who own property in the state and military personnel stationed in South Carolina) permits. If indicated with "Resident only" below, that state only honors South Carolina resident permits

(and not those issued to non-residents).

[Alaska](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Arizona](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Florida](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Georgia](#) (Permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Iowa](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Kansas](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Kentucky](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Maine](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Michigan](#) (at least 21 years old and resident permits only)

[Mississippi](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Missouri](#) (permitless carry, at least 19 years old, 18 for military)

[Nebraska](#) (Permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Ohio](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Oklahoma](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Tennessee](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Texas](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Utah](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[West Virginia](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Wyoming](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

Permitless Carry States

[Alabama](#) (permitless carry, at least 19 years old)

[Alaska](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Arizona](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Arkansas](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Florida](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Georgia](#) (Permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Idaho](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Indiana](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Iowa](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Kansas](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Kentucky](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Maine](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Mississippi](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Missouri](#) (permitless carry, at least 19 years old, 18 for military)

[Montana](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Nebraska](#) (Permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[New Hampshire](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[North Dakota](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Ohio](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Oklahoma](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[South Dakota](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Tennessee](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[Texas](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Utah](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Vermont](#) (permitless carry, at least 18 years old)

[West Virginia](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

[Wyoming](#) (permitless carry, at least 21 years old)

*PC-18 = permitless carry if at least 18 years old

*PC-21 = permitless carry if at least 21 years old

Permitless carry includes constitutional carry states as well as states where an individual must meet certain qualifications, e.g., no DUIs in the last 10 years, in order to legally carry (Tennessee). Each state determines the requirements and any limitations on the carry of firearms. Check each state's page for more information and any restrictions that may apply.

South Carolina Concealed Carry License Information

Residency Changes:	<p>Moving to South Carolina and interested in applying for a resident permit? How soon can you apply?South Carolina issues permits to residents, non-residents who own property in the state and military personnel posted in South Carolina only. You can apply for your permit once you can provide proof of either residency or that you own property in the state.</p> <p>Moving from South Carolina and have a South Carolina resident permit? Does that permit transfer to your new state? Is there a grace period during which your South Carolina permit remains valid?If a person with a South Carolina concealed weapons permit establishes residency in another state, you must surrender</p>
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your permit to SLED.

An applicant must:

- Be at least 18 years old;
- Have completed an approved firearms training class must have completed a basic or advanced handgun training course within three years of application or meet an exemption;
- Reside in South Carolina, or if a resident of another state, submit proof you own property in South Carolina;
- Not have been convicted of a violent crime that is a felony;
- Have actual or corrected vision of 20/40;
- Not, by order of a circuit judge or county court judge of South Carolina, been adjudged unfit to carry or possess a firearm; and
- Meet [federal law requirements](#).

*Consult with an attorney if you have any questions about your eligibility. If you don't have an attorney, you can find one by contacting the State Bar of South Carolina.

Any change of permanent address must be communicated in writing to SLED within 10 days of the change free of charge. SLED will then issue a new permit with the new address. A permit holder's failure to notify SLED in accordance with this subsection constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by a \$25 fine. The original permit remains in force until receipt of the corrected permit identification card by the permit holder, at which time the original permit

Requirements:

Name/Address Changes:	<p>must be returned to SLED.</p> <p>You may request a replacement CWP using the online system. Once you have accessed the SCCWP Duplicate/Renewal link provided by IdentoGo you will have the option to update your information as intended and SLED will be prompted to update your information as requested in our system and then will print your new credential and mail it to you. Once received you must shred/destroy your old credential. If you would like to complete a paper Duplicate/Replacement, you may do so by following the directions stated using the CWP Replacement form.</p>
Lost/Stolen Permits:	<p>You may request a replacement CWP using the online system. Once you have accessed the SCCWP Duplicate/Renewal link provided by IdentoGo you will have the option to update your information as intended, pay the \$5 fee required to process the transaction, and SLED will be prompted to update your information as requested in our system and then will print your new credential and mail it to you. If you would like to complete a paper Duplicate/Replacement, you may do so by following the directions stated using the CWP Replacement form.</p>
Fees:	Initial Permit and Renewals are free of charge.
Valid For:	5 years
Processing Time:	90 days
	Paper applicationGuide for completing a new or

Application:	renewal CWP paper application IdentoGo online application portal
Non-Resident Concealed Carry Permits:	Non-residents who own property in the state and military personnel posted in South Carolina may apply for a non-resident permit. The process is the same as for residents.

South Carolina Concealed Carry Permit Application Process

How to Apply for a South Carolina Concealed Carry Permit

Step 1:	Complete a firearms training course within three years of filing the application.
Step 2:	<p>Applicants for new CWP's can choose to submit a paper application by downloading and completing an application form or by using the online IdentoGo registration system. At this time, SLED will continue to process all submitted applications received from the IdentoGo appointments made online and any applications made by mail.</p> <p>To use the online system, applicants begin the application online and set up an appointment at an available IdentoGo site. At the IdentoGo site you can submit your CWP application documentation and have your fingerprints taken and sent to SLED electronically.</p>
	<p>You will need the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photocopy of driver's license or state ID card • Resident aliens must provide a copy of their alien card from the Department of Homeland Security

Step 3:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military applicants must submit military orders or a copy of their DD214 • Retired law enforcement officers must submit proof of retirement benefits/pension documentation • Real property tax form R168 for non-resident applicants • Documentation of firearm training course taken within three years or of an exemption (such as military orders for active-duty military applicants and a DD214 for retired or former military applicants) • Application form signed by you and your firearms instructor • SLED CWP Instructor/Student Checklist • Two complete fingerprint cards
Step 4:	<p>For paper applications, mail information to:</p> <p>CWP Application, SLED Data Center, P.O. Box 21398, Columbia, SC 29221-1398</p>
Step 5:	<p>You will be notified if your application has been approved.</p>

Firearms Training Requirements in South Carolina

As of March 7th, 2024, SLED is required to conduct FREE training, twice monthly for anyone that wishes to attend.

Firearms training requires the applicant to demonstrate a proficiency in both the use of handguns and state laws pertaining to handguns. Applicants for an initial permit after August 15, 2021, must complete an eight-hour handgun education course offered by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency or a nationally recognized organization that promotes gun safety within the last three years. The course must include:

- Statutory and case law of the state relating to handguns and the use of deadly force
- Handgun use and safety
- Proper storage practice for handguns, with an emphasis on storage practices that reduce the possibility of accidental injury to a child
- Properly securing a firearm in a holster
- 'Cocked and locked' carrying of a firearm
- How to respond to a person who attempts to take your firearm from your holster
- De-escalation techniques and strategies
- The actual firing of the handgun in the presence of an instructor, with a minimum of 25 rounds fired

Exemptions: In accordance with South Carolina State law, active duty military and members of the reserve, and National Guard members are exempt from all CWP training. Retired/former military members and retired law

enforcement must complete only the legal aspects portion of the CWP training by a certified South Carolina CWP instructor.

[Find a USCCA Certified Instructor or Firearms Training Class Near You](#)

South Carolina Concealed Carry Permit Renewal Process

How to Renew a South Carolina Concealed Carry Permit

Step 1:	Renewal applications are mailed out 90 – 120 days before permits expire. If your permit has been expired for more than 18 months then you MUST submit a paper renewal form and copy of your current SCDL, online renewal is not an option.
Step 2:	Renewal applicants can choose to submit a paper application or use the online IdentoGo registration system . At this time, SLED will continue to process all submitted applications received from the IdentoGo appointments made online and any applications made by mail. To submit a paper application, download the application form .
Step 3:	<p>Complete the application. You will need the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photocopy of driver's license or state ID card;• Real property tax form R168 for non-resident applicants; and• Resident aliens will need to submit a copy of their

	alien card.
Step 4:	For paper renewals, send to: SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Attention CWP Renewal PO Box 21398 Columbia, SC 29221
Step 5:	You will be notified by mail if your application has been approved.

Law Enforcement Officers (LEO)/Retired LEOs

Law enforcement officers (LEOs) and Retired LEOs (RLEOs) may choose to carry under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), often referred to as HR 218. Under **18 U.S. Code §§ 926B & 926C**, qualified LEOs and qualified retired LEOs, or those separated from service in good standing, can carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws, with some exceptions. For details check out our [Federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act \(LEOSA\)](#) page.

Per [S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-600](#), qualified RLEOs may carry under LEOSA with an identification card and proof of annual firearms qualification. The agency or department must provide the qualified retired law enforcement officer with the opportunity to qualify to carry a firearm under the same standards for training and qualification for active law

enforcement officers to carry firearms. Out-of-state RLEOs may contact local police/sheriff for annual qualification.

South Carolina Location Restrictions

WHERE CAN I CARRY A CONCEALED FIREARM IN SOUTH CAROLINA?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carry in bars/restaurants that serve alcohol? Yes, unless posted and provided you do not consume any alcohol.• Carry in my vehicle without a permit/license? Yes• Carry in roadside rest areas? Yes.• Carry in state/national parks, state/national forests, and WMAs? Yes.• Carry on public transportation? No.• Carry in the buildings and grounds of places of worship that are leased to a church? As of August 15, 2021, those areas are not considered a school during the hours that the church has the use and enjoyment of the school property. Therefore, a valid permit holder may carry concealed or openly carry in a church during church services or official church activities in churches located on leased premises of an elementary or secondary school (although not during any time students are present for a curricular or extracurricular school-sponsored activity), only upon express permission given by the appropriate church official or governing body. [S.C. Code Ann.16-23-232]
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- Any private or public school, college, university, technical college or other post-secondary institution without the express permission of the authorities in charge (except CWP permit holders can leave their firearm properly secured in a locked motor vehicle and is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle); and
- Any publicly owned building or property without permission from persons in charge (except CWP permit holders can leave their firearm properly secured in a vehicle).

[\[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-420\]](#)

- Any elementary or secondary school property (except CWP permit holders can leave their firearm properly secured in a vehicle) [\[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-430\]](#);
- School or college athletic event not related to firearms;
- Day care or preschool facility;
- Office of, or the business meeting of, the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality or special-purpose district;
- Law enforcement office or facility;
- Detention or correctional facility;
- Courthouse or courtroom;
- Polling place on election days;
- Church or other established religious

WHERE
CAN'T I
CARRY A
CONCEALED
FIREARM IN
SOUTH
CAROLINA?

Places off-
limits even

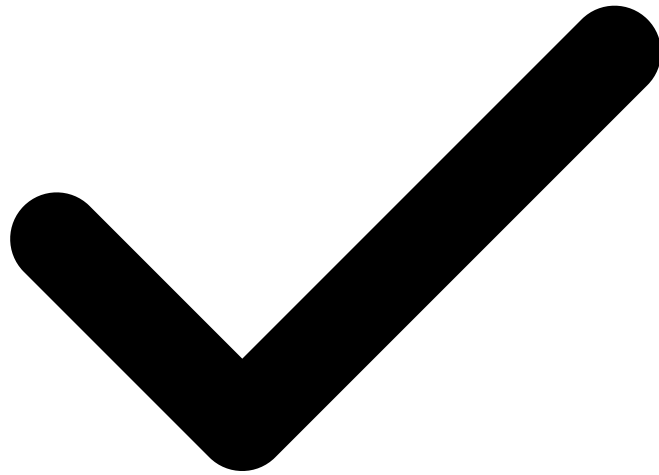
<p>with a permit/license</p>	<p>sanctuary, unless express permission is given the appropriate church official or governing body [S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-232].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital, doctors office, medical clinic or any building in which medical services are performed (unless given permission by employer); and • Private places clearly marked with a sign prohibiting the carrying of a concealable weapon on the premises. <p>[S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-215(M)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodging establishments that are posted [S.C. Code Ann. § 45-2-30(A)(4)]; • Residence or dwelling of another person unless given express permission by the owner or authorized person [S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-225]; • State Capitol building or grounds. CWP permit holders can leave their firearm locked in a vehicle [S.C. Code Ann. § 10-11-320]; and • Any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law or state law or regulation.
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FAQ: South Carolina Concealed Carry Questions

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WEAR A COVID
MASK &
CARRY?

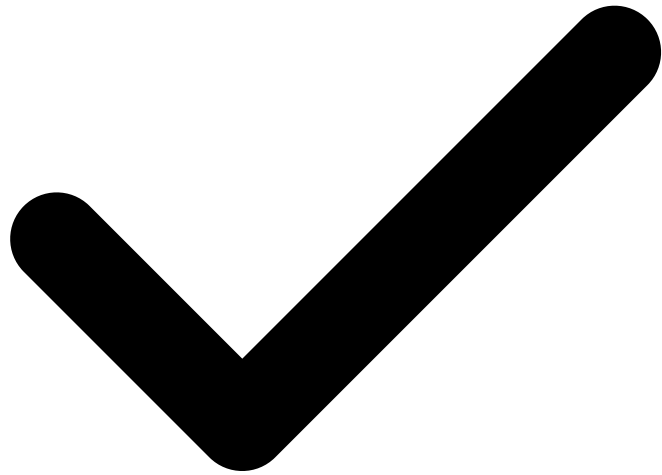
I can legally
carry a
concealed
firearm in South
Carolina, but can
I wear a COVID
19 protective
mask while
carrying
concealed?



SLED issued the following statement, "There is no South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) law that prohibits a South Carolina CWP holder from wearing a mask to comply with a city or county health ordinance or to help stop the spread of COVID-19 while carrying a concealed weapon in South Carolina."

CARRY WHILE
GUN HUNTING?

Can you
concealed carry
while
shotgun/rifle
hunting in South
Carolina?



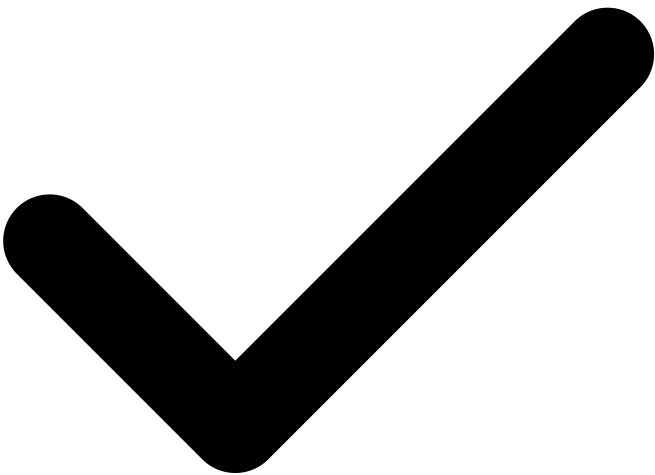
Yes.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-20](#)]

CARRY WHILE
BOW HUNTING?

Can you
concealed carry

while bow
hunting in South
Carolina?



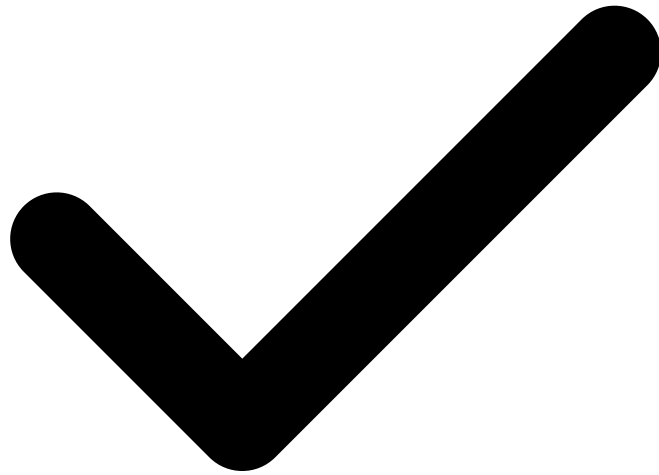
Yes, persons who have a CWP pursuant to SC-31-205 may possess a handgun while on any WMA. During a primitive weapons season (archery or muzzleloader), a handgun may not be used to take or attempt to take game.

[[SC Hunting and Fishing Reg Guide](#)]

HUNTER

HARASSMENT LAW?

Is there a Hunter
Harassment Law
in South
Carolina?



Yes. It is unlawful for a person willfully to impede or obstruct another person from lawfully hunting, trapping, fishing, or harvesting marine species.

[[S.C. Code Ann. § 50-1-137](#)]

WHAT ARE THE
KNIFE LAWS IN
SOUTH
CAROLINA?



It is legal to own or open carry any kind of knife in South Carolina. It is legal to conceal carry any type of knife, so long as you do not use the knife to commit or aid in the commission of a crime. Knives are not allowed on elementary or secondary school property and counties and municipalities may have blade limits.

[[SC Code Ann. §§ 16-23-460](#) and [16-23-430](#)]

South Carolina Gun Laws Updates

Date	Details
	Added Constitutional Carry changes to multiple

2024-03-07	sections including Summary, Carry Basics, Carry Locations, and Location Restrictions.
2021-09-20	Added information on open carry in Columbia in At A Glance table
2021-08-16	Updated info on page based on HB-3094 going into effect
2021-05-19	Added info on driver's license link to permit in At A Glance table
2021-05-19	Updated info on training requirements based on HB-3094 in Required Training section
2021-05-18	Updated info on permit fees based on HB-3094 in the Permit Information section
2021-05-18	Updated information on church carry on school premises based on HB-3094 in locations section
2021-05-18	Updated information on preemption to At A Glance table based on HB-3094
2021-05-18	Updated information on open carry in the Summary and At A Glance table based on HB-3094

Did We Miss Something?

Here at the USCCA, it is our mission to provide responsible gun owners with the tools they need to be educated and trained. Our team is constantly working to provide you with the most up-to-date and comprehensive list of self-defense laws available for every state.

If you have any questions that you don't see answered here

— let us know! Just email support@uscca.com and we will be sure to get your question resolved. Your feedback matters to us, and we appreciate you helping to make this page the best possible resource for responsible gun owners!

Permit numbers were obtained from the Crime Prevention Resource Center's publication entitled, "Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States." Numbers include resident and non-resident permits for those states that issue both.

The information contained on this website is provided as a service to USCCA, Inc. members and the concealed carry community, and does not constitute legal advice. Although we attempt to address all areas of concealed carry laws in all states, we make no claims, representations, warranties, promises or guarantees as to the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information disclosed. Legal advice must always be tailored to the individual facts and circumstances of each individual case. Laws are constantly changing, and as such, nothing contained on this website should be used as a substitute for the advice of a lawyer.

If you have any questions regarding USCCA Membership, Delta Defense, handguns laws or the lawful process of carrying concealed, please contact the award-winning Delta Defense [Customer Engagement Team](#).