

Any person who is not disqualified under section 724.8, who satisfies the training requirements of section 724.9, and who files an application in accordance with section 724.10 shall be issued a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons. Such permits shall be on a form prescribed and published by the commissioner of public safety, which shall be readily distinguishable from the professional permit, and shall identify the holder of the permit. Such permits shall not be issued for a particular weapon and shall not contain information about a particular weapon including the make, model, or serial number of the weapon or any ammunition used in that weapon. All permits so issued shall be a period of five **years and shall be valid throughout the state except where the possession or carrying of a firearm is prohibited by state or federal law.**

Acceptable Training:

- Completion of any National Rifle Association (NRA) handgun safety training course.
- Completion of any handgun safety training course available to the general public offered by a law enforcement agency, community college, college, private or public institution or organization, or firearms training school, utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or certain other firearms training certifying bodies (such as the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy).
- Completion of any handgun safety training course offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of a law enforcement or security enforcement agency approved by the Iowa Department of Public Safety.
- Completion of small arms training while serving with the armed forces of the United States as evidenced by any of the following:
 1. For personnel released or retired from active duty, possession of an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.
 2. For personnel on active duty or serving in one of the national guard or reserve components of the armed forces of the United States, possession of a certificate of completion of basic training with a service record of successful completion of small arms training and qualification.
 3. Completion of a law enforcement agency firearms training course that qualifies a peace officer to carry a firearm in the normal course of the peace officer's duties.

The Following Documentation Will be Acceptable:

- A photocopy of a certificate of completion or any similar document indicating completion of any course or class identified above. This category would include copies of the Form WP-0 that were issued to indicate completion of training prior to January 1, 2011. By reference, this category would also include copies of previously issued Iowa permits to carry that include the firearm training certificate number that appeared on the WP-0.
- An affidavit from the instructor, school, organization, or group that conducted or taught a course or class identified above attesting to the completion of the course or class by the applicant.
- A photocopy of DD Form 214 or other documentation showing honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions from military service.

Range qualification may be part of a training program identified above; however, range qualification is not a mandatory element of training for initial issuance of a permit.

For renewal of a permit, the training program requirements for a new Iowa professional or nonprofessional permit to carry weapons shall apply or the renewal applicant may choose to qualify on a firing range under the supervision of an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or certain other firearms training

certifying bodies (such as the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy). Such training or qualification must occur within the twelve-month period prior to the expiration of the applicant's current permit.

Note: You must apply at least 30 days before your Permit expires or you will be charged an additional fee for processing. If you have a restricted permit it is still valid until it expires. You can apply for a new 5 year unrestricted permit at any time before your 1 year restricted permit expires if you wish. If you have a restricted permit you must still follow the restrictions placed on your until you renew.

Non-Resident Permits

Non-Residents can apply but the criteria is very narrow to qualify.

Applications for permits to carry weapons will be considered by the Iowa Department of Public Safety as follows:

- Residency - Applicants must be nonresidents of Iowa or state employees whose need to go armed is based on their state employment. [§724.11]
- Justification
 1. Professional permits to carry will only be issued to qualified applicants if their need to go armed is employment based and is a critical element in the protection of life and property.
 2. Nonprofessional permits to carry will only be issued to:
 - a. nonresident correctional officers and other public officials, other than law enforcement officers, who are currently employed fulltime in the administration of criminal justice
 - b. other nonresidents with a demonstrable viable threat to themselves or their family as verified by a law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the threat occurred

Places Off-Limits Even With A Permit/License

Note: Some Cities and Counties are passing ordinances stating their property is off limits. They will post signs. The Iowa Attorney General in [Opinion No. 03-4-1](#) stated:

....narrowly and find that the statute does not interfere with the authority of a city to exercise its home rule power to place restrictions upon the possession of weapons which apply only to buildings owned or directly controlled by the city....

If City/County Property is posted you can be arrested and be the test case. RKBA groups are working to get proper legislation to void this AG Opinion. Until then I would not carry on any City/County Property that is posted.

[724.4A](#) Weapons Free Zones - Enhanced Penalties.

1. As used in this section, "weapons free zone" means the area in or on, or within one thousand feet of, the real property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school, or in or on the real property comprising a public park. A weapons free zone shall not include that portion of a public park designated as a hunting area under section 461A.42.

2. Notwithstanding sections 902.9 and 903.1, a person who commits a public offense involving a firearm or offensive weapon, within a weapons free zone, in violation of this or any other chapter shall be subject to a

fine of twice the maximum amount which may otherwise be imposed for the public offense. 94 Acts, ch 1172, §53

724.4B Carrying Weapons on School Grounds—Penalty—Exceptions.

1. A person who goes armed with, carries, or transports a firearm of any kind, whether concealed or not, on the grounds of a school commits a class "D" felony. For the purposes of this section, "school" means a public or nonpublic school as defined in section 280.2.
2. Subsection 1 does not apply to the following:
 - a. A person listed under section 724.4, subsection 4, paragraphs "b" through "f" or "j".
 - b. A person who has been specifically authorized by the school to go armed, carry, or transport a firearm on the school grounds, including for purposes of conducting an instructional program regarding firearms. 95 Acts, ch 191, §53

281-43.38 Driver Restrictions. (No Firearms on a School Bus)

- 43.38(1) The driver of a school bus shall not smoke when there are passengers on the bus.
43.38(2) The driver shall not permit firearms to be carried in the bus.

491-5.4(6) Firearms Possession Within Casino.

- a. No patron or employee of the licensee, including the security department members, shall possess or be permitted to possess any pistol or firearm within a casino without the express written approval of the administrator unless:
 - (1) The person is a peace officer, on duty, acting in the peace officer's official capacity; or
 - (2) The person is a peace officer possessing a valid peace officer permit to carry weapons who is employed by the licensee and who is authorized by the administrator to possess such pistol or firearm while acting on behalf of the licensee within that casino.

11-100.2(8A) Security. 100.2(1) Dangerous Weapons.

No member of the public shall carry a dangerous weapon in state buildings on the capitol complex. This provision applies to any member of the public whether or not the individual possesses a valid Iowa permit to carry weapons. This provision does not apply to:

- a. A peace officer as defined in Iowa Code section 801.4 or a member of the armed forces of the United States or of the national guard, when the person's duties or lawful activities require or permit possession of a dangerous weapon.
- b. A person possessing a valid Iowa professional permit to carry a weapon whose duties require that person to carry a dangerous weapon.
- c. A person who possesses a dangerous weapon for any purpose authorized by a state agency to further the statutory or regulatory responsibilities of that agency. An authorization issued pursuant to this paragraph shall not become effective until it has been issued in writing to the person or persons to whom it applies and until copies of the authorization have been received by the director and by the commissioner of public safety.
- d. Members of recognized military veterans organizations performing honor guard service as provided in 2001 Iowa Acts, chapter 96, section 1.

371-2.5 Public Safety—Weapons. (State Fair Grounds)

The carrying or possession by any person other than a peace officer of any weapon, such as a dirk, dagger, hunting knife, buck knife, switch blade, or any knife with a blade of three inches in length or longer, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, pellet or BB gun, blackjack, billy club or any other weapon is prohibited on the
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fairgrounds unless authorized by the board. Failure to comply with this rule shall be cause for expulsion from the fairgrounds or being charged under Iowa Code chapter 724. Kitchen knives and others purchased at the fair must be wrapped and not concealed.

321G.13 Unlawful Operation.

3. A person shall not operate or ride a snowmobile (& ATV's) with a firearm in the person's possession unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case. However, a nonambulatory person may carry an uncased and unloaded firearm while operating or riding a snowmobile.

Note: Carry on ATV's and Snowmobiles is not legal even with a Permit/License. This is a DNR rule and they state they will enforce it. You can carry in your vehicle with a valid Permit/License.

Note: This is from a letter to the WV AG from David Heuton, Director of Administrative Services Division Iowa Department of Public Safety. The letter is telling WV that Iowa will honor their Permit/License to Carry a Concealed Firearm. In that letter Mr. Heuton states the following to the WV AG. You can view the whole on line version of the Letter [Here](#).

681-9.1(2)(g), 681.13.14(5) & 681-13.19(262) of the Iowa Administrative Code:

State Universities. Prohibits use or possession of firearms, ammunition, or other dangerous weapons, substances, or materials (except as expressly authorized by the university), or of bombs, explosives, or explosive or incendiary devices prohibited by law on the campus of the three state universities (U of I, Iowa State, UNI) or at or during any university-authorized function or event by any person, student, member of the faculty or staff.

Note: In the Administrative Rules for the above sections defines a Person as: "Person" means any student, member of the faculty or staff, or visitor. The Law is very gray so I would not be the test case for carrying on Colleges and Universities in Iowa until further information becomes available.

724.29 Firearm Devices.

A person who sells or offers for sale a manual or power-driven trigger activating device constructed and designed so that when attached to a firearm increases the rate of fire of the firearm is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.

For Federal Restrictions on Firearms see the [USA Page](#).

Do "No Gun Signs" Have the Force of Law?

"NO"

"Handgunlaw.us highly recommends that you not enter a place that is posted "No Firearms" no matter what the state laws read/mean on signage. We recommend you print out the [No Guns = No Money Cards](#) and give one to the owner of the establishment that has the signage." As responsible gun owners and upholders of the 2nd Amendment we should also honor the rights of property owners to control their own property even if we disagree with them."

“No Firearm” signs in Iowa have no force of law unless they are posted on property that is specifically mentioned in State Law as being off limits to those with a Permit/License to Carry. If you are in a place not specifically mentioned in the law that is posted and they ask you to leave, you must leave. If you refuse to leave then you are breaking the law and can be charged. Even if the property is not posted and you are asked to leave you must leave. Always be aware of the possibility that responding Police Officers who may have been called without your knowledge and may not know the laws on trespass etc. could arrest you even if you are within the law.

Note: Some Cities and Counties are passing ordinances stating their property is off limits. They will post signs. The Iowa Attorney General in [Opinion No. 03-4-1](#) stated:

...narrowly and find that the statute does not interfere with the authority of a city to exercise its home rule power to place restrictions upon the possession of weapons which apply only to buildings owned or directly controlled by the city....

If City/County Property is posted you can be arrested and be the test case. RKBA groups are working to get proper legislation to void this AG Opinion. Until then I would not carry on any City/County Property that is posted.

Must Inform Officer Immediately on Contact By Law?

“NO”

Title 16 724.5 Duty to Carry Permit to Carry Weapons.

A person armed with a revolver, pistol, or pocket billy concealed upon the person shall have in the person's immediate possession the permit provided for in **section 724.4, subsection 4**, paragraph "i", and shall produce the permit for inspection at the request of a peace officer. Failure to so produce a permit is a simple misdemeanor. [S13, §4775-8a; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §12947; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §695.15; C79, 81, §724.5] 90 Acts, ch 1168, §60

Carry In State Parks/State & National Forests/WMA/Road Side Rest Areas

Carry Allowed in these Areas:

State Parks: YES [Per DNR Director Letter](#)

State/National Forests: YES [Per DNR Director Letter](#)

Preserves YES [Per DNR Director Letter](#)

Road Side Rest Areas: YES per ISP

RV/Car Carry Without A Permit/License

[724.4](#) Carrying Weapons.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who goes armed with a dangerous weapon concealed on or about the person, or who, within the limits of any city, goes armed with a pistol or revolver, or any loaded firearm of any kind, whether concealed or not, or who knowingly carries or transports in a vehicle a pistol or revolver, commits an aggravated misdemeanor.

f. A person who for any lawful purpose carries or transports an unloaded pistol or revolver in a vehicle inside a closed and fastened container or securely wrapped package which is too large to be concealed on the

person or inside a cargo or luggage compartment where the pistol or revolver will not be readily accessible to any person riding in the vehicle or common carrier.

Note: When a motor home is used as a residence (Parked) or place of business (Parked), no permit is required. When it is being used as transportation the firearm must be stored.

State Preemption

724.28 Prohibition of Regulation by Political Subdivisions.

A political subdivision of the state shall not enact an ordinance regulating the ownership, possession, legal transfer, lawful transportation, registration, or licensing of firearms when the ownership, possession, transfer, or transportation is otherwise lawful under the laws of this state. An ordinance regulating firearms in violation of this section existing on or after April 5, 1990, is void.

Deadly Force Laws

Chapter 704 Force - Reasonable or Deadly – Defenses

- 704.1 Reasonable Force.
- 704.2 Deadly Force.
- 704.3 Defense Of Self Or Another.
- 704.4 Defense Of Property.
- 704.5 Aiding Another In The Defense Of Property.
- 704.6 When Defense Not Available.
- 704.7 Resisting Forcible Felony.
- 704.8 Escape From Place Of Confinement.
- 704.9 Death.
- 704.10 Compulsion.
- 704.11 Police Activity.
- 704.12 Use Of Force In Making An Arrest.

Knife Laws State/Cities

To access State/Local Knife Laws Click [“Here”](#)

Carry in Restaurants That Serve Alcohol

YES

Note: A “YES” above means you can carry into places like described below. “NO” means you can’t. Handgunlaw.us definition of “Restaurant Carry” is carry in a restaurant that serves alcohol. Places like Friday’s. Chili’s or Red Lobster. This may or may not mean the bar or the bar area of a restaurant. But you can carry your firearm into a restaurant that serves alcohol and sit and eat without consuming. Handgunlaw.us recommends you not sit at the Bar or in the Bar area of such restaurants. In some states it is illegal to be in the Bar area of such restaurants. Handgunlaw.us believes you should never consume alcohol when carrying your firearm. In some states it is illegal to take even one drink while carrying a firearm. If you want further info on carrying in places that serve alcohol check your state laws.

Chemical Sprays/Stun Gun/Higher Capacity Magazine Laws

Title XVI

Chapter 702

702.7 Dangerous weapon.

A “*dangerous weapon*” is any instrument or device designed primarily for use in inflicting death or injury upon a human being or animal, and which is capable of inflicting death upon a human being when used in the manner for which it was designed, except a bow and arrow when possessed and used for hunting or any other lawful purpose. Additionally, any instrument or device of any sort whatsoever which is actually used in such a manner as to indicate that the defendant intends to inflict death or serious injury upon the other, and which, when so used, is capable of inflicting death upon a human being, is a dangerous weapon. Dangerous weapons include but are not limited to any offensive weapon, pistol, revolver, or other firearm, dagger, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, knife having a blade exceeding five inches in length, **or any portable device or weapon directing an electric current, impulse, wave, or beam that produces a high-voltage pulse designed to immobilize a person.**

[S13, §4775-1a; C24, 27, 31, §12936; C35, §12935-g1, 12936; C39, §12935.1, 12936; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §695.1, 695.2; C79, 81, §702.7] 88 Acts, ch 1164, §1; 2008 Acts, ch [1151. §1](#)

Note: Since an electric defensive device is considered a Dangerous Weapon it would take a permit/license to carry a firearm to carry such device on your person.

LEOSA State Information

No LEOSA Info available

Attorney General Opinions/Court Cases

- [Iowa AG - State Preemption](#)

Airport Carry/Misc. Information

Airport Carry: No laws found.

Training Valid for: Any time before 1st Application. 12 months prior to Renewal Application.

Time Period to Establish Residency: Upon obtaining state ID/Drivers License

Minimum Age for Permit/License: 18 If Needed for Employment. Otherwise 21

Permit/License Info Public Information: YES

State Fire arm Laws: Title 16-724.1 thru 724.30 & Iowa Admin Code 661-91.1 thru 661-91.9

State Deadly Force Laws: Title 16-704.1 thru 704.12

State Knife Laws: 16-702.7. & 16-724.1. & 16-724.4.

Chemical/Electric Weapons Laws: 719.7

Body Armor Laws: No laws found

Does Your Permit Cover Other Weapons Besides Firearms? YES 724.4 & 661—4.1(724)

Is carrying of a Concealed Firearm with Permit/License for Defensive Purposes Only While Hunting Legal? YES Except While Bow Hunting. IA DNR Hunting & Trapping Regulations

Notes

What Does IA Consider A Loaded Firearm?

Be It Enacted By The General Assembly Of The State Of Iowa: Section 1. Section 483A.36, Code Supplement 2009, is amended to read as follows:

483A.36 Manner of Conveyance.

A person, except as permitted by law, shall not have or carry a gun in or on a vehicle on a public highway, unless the gun is taken down or totally contained in a securely fastened case, and its barrels and attached magazines are unloaded.

State Emergency Powers

Title 1 - State Sovereignty & Management - Subtitle 12 - Chapter 29c

29C.6 Proclamation of Disaster Emergency by Governor. (Edited for Space Considerations)

In exercising the governor's powers and duties under [this chapter](#) and to effect the policy and purpose, the governor may:

15. Control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises in such area.
16. Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives, and combustibles.

Note: Federal Law can apply if the state is receiving monetary and/or other assistance from the Federal Government. See [US Code 42-5207](#) for Federal Law as it applies to States of Emergencies. The state quoted code may also not be all of the law on Emergency Powers held by the state. You should read the entire code on Emergency Powers etc for this state by following the link to the state code.

Minimum Age for Possessing and Transporting of Handguns.

Iowa 21 Y/O Title XVI Subtitle I 724.22

This is the minimum age for possessing and transporting a handgun unloaded and secured in a vehicle without any type of permit/license to carry firearms.

Note: In some states Possession and Transportation CAN be very restrictive in that you can ONLY possess and transport a handgun to and from a Shooting Range, Gun Shop, property you own or other places you can legally possess a handgun. Some states do not have this restriction.

This is not the last word on possession and transporting of handguns in this, or any other state. Study your state law further for more information. See “RV/Car Carry” Section Above for more information.

Permit/License Image

This is a 1 year restricted permit image. The new unrestricted 5 year permit should have the same format but they could redo part of the permit to eliminate the Additional restrictions line.

IOWA NON-PROFESSIONAL PERMIT TO CARRY WEAPONS	
Photo	Slider Gary J. 2343 Rosemont Dr. Hiawatha, IA 52233
	 Linn County Sheriff 310 2nd Av SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 319-892-6100 Invalid when using or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs
Height: 5'10" Weight: 190 Hair: BRO Eyes: BLU DOB: 11/16/87 Gender: M NTN #: E235472 Issued: 11/16/2010 Expires: 11/16/2011	
ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS: None	
JUSTIFICATION: Personal Protection	
 Signature of Permit Holder	

This image has been digitally assembled from 2 or more images. It may not be 100% accurate but gives a good representation of the actual Permit/License. I have been told that the wording at the bottom of the image "Invalid when using or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs" may not be at the bottom of every permit issued in Iowa. A Polk Co. Permit Holder states his has "NONPROFESSIONAL" in that location. Different Counties could have different wording.

Updates to this Page

5/8/11 – PA Now Honors Iowa.

8/10/11 – New Hampshire Now Honors Iowa.

9/9/11 – Outdated AG Opinion Removed. All Links Checked and Repaired if Needed.

11/1/11 – WI Added as State That Honors IA.

12/1/11 – DNR FAQ's Link Added.

12/23/11 – Cost for Plastic Permit wording updated. Image wording updated as some may counties may have different wording.
Links Updates. Legislature Updated Site.

1/6/12 – Must apply in county of residence info added to How to Apply Section.

1/27/12 – GA Now Honors IA. Places Off Limits Updated with Note about carrying on University Property.

3/2/12 – All Links Checked.

3/9/12 - Emergency Powers Law added to Notes Section.

7/1/12 – Mississippi Now Honors IA.

8/17/12 – All Links Checked.

10/26/12 - Minimum Age for Possessing/Transporting a Handgun Added to Notes Section.

11/9/12 – Broken State FAQ and Reciprocity Info Links Repaired.