

# California Concealed Carry Weapons Permit Facts

California residents who have clean records can apply for a permit which allows them to carry a concealed handgun for *self-defense* and *personal protection*.

This permit is called a “*CCW permit*” or simply a “*CCW*”.

You *cannot legally* carry a concealed gun in California without a valid California-issued CCW permit.

A CCW *does not* give you authority to make arrests, stop crime, or misuse a firearm. Only police officers should attempt to make arrests or catch criminals. Carrying a firearm is a serious responsibility which requires training and good judgment. Misuse of a firearm is a crime.

The CCW is issued by the county sheriff or (in some cases) by the city police chief.

To get your permit, request an application from your county sheriff.

Your county sheriff *must* give you an application.

Your county sheriff *must* accept your filled-in application.

Your county sheriff *must* inform you, in writing, of his decision within 90 days.

If your county sheriff does not issue you a permit, he *must* give you, in writing, the *reason* for the denial.

The sheriff *must* provide a process for appeals of denials.

CCW information, such as the number of permits approved and denied in your county, and the names and *cause statements* of all permit holders, are public records. Your county sheriff *must* provide this information to you within ten days of your written request. If your sheriff denies your permit application, you should request information from him about permits which he has approved or denied. It is *not legal* for a sheriff to make decisions about CCW permits based on factors such as campaign contributions or race and requesting CCW records may reveal such misconduct. Sometimes sheriffs will issue you your permit when they realize you are well-informed about the law and you are determined to get fair treatment.

If you live in a city that has its own police department, you can also apply through the police chief. You can also request the same types of records from your police chief.

Sheriffs are elected every four years, usually in the June primary. Find out who is running for this office and what their CCW stance is.

## Why you should get a CCW permit

- It is better to have it and not need it than it is to need it and not have it.
- Having your gun with you makes you and your family safer. Your spouse should have a CCW permit too.
- The more people have CCW permits the safer all of our gun rights are.
- CCWs are routinely issued in 40 other states. Californians deserve no less.

To learn more, go to: <http://CaliforniaCCW.org>