

Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus – Illinois Concealed Carry Frequently Asked Questions

Updated January 10, 2014

1. I have a FOID card; does that mean I can carry a concealed weapon?

No. While having a valid FOID card is a requirement for obtaining a concealed-carry license, a person with a FOID card is not automatically entitled to carry a firearm in public. You must apply for and obtain a license from the Illinois State Police.

2. When can I start carrying my gun?

You must first apply for and receive an approved concealed-carry license. Concealed-carry applications are available as of Jan.5, 2014.

Having a FOID card alone does not automatically mean that you can carry a concealed firearm.

3. If I have a concealed-carry permit from another state, is it valid in Illinois?

No. However, people who hold permits in states with laws substantially similar to Illinois' will be able to apply for non-resident concealed-carry licenses. So far, State Police officials have identified Hawaii as the only state that has substantially similar laws. However, the list may be updated if additional states are found to be substantially similar.

4. How old do I have to be to apply for a concealed-carry license?

21 years old.

5. What is the process for applying for a license to carry?

You must submit an application with the relevant documentation and \$150 fee to the Department of State Police. Applications became available starting Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. In order to apply for a concealed-carry license, you must provide

- a. Your name, current address, date of birth, place of birth, height, weight, hair color, eye color, maiden name (or any other name used) and any address where you have lived for more than 30 days within the past 10 years
- b. Your valid driver's license number or valid state identification card number
- c. A signed confidentiality waiver that gives the State Police access to your criminal and mental health records
- d. A declaration that you possess a valid FOID Card
- e. A declaration that you have not be convicted or found guilty of
 - i. a felony
 - ii. a misdemeanor involving threat of physical force or violence within the past 5 years
or
 - iii. two or more violations of driving under the influence within the past 5 years
- f. A declaration that you have not failed a drug test by testing positive for a drug for which you did not have a prescription

- g. Written consent allowing the State Police to review your digital driver's license or ID
- h. A full set of fingerprints (if no fingerprints are submitted, the State Police have an additional 90 days to review the application)
- i. A head-and-shoulders color photo
- j. A copy of evidence that you have completed the training required by law of all concealed-carry licensees

6. How much does a concealed-carry license cost?

\$150 for Illinois residents and \$300 for non-residents. Licensees must pay the same fee again when renewing their licenses every five years.

7. How long will I have to wait to receive my license after submitting the application and all the required documentation?

No more than 120 days.

The State Police have 90 days after receiving an application to approve or deny it unless another law enforcement agency submits an objection. If that happens, your application will be referred to the Concealed Carry Licensing Review Board, which has an additional 30 days to consider the application.

8. Where am I not allowed to carry a firearm?

- Schools
- Preschools and child care facilities
- Government buildings
- Courts
- Correctional facilities
- Hospitals, mental health facilities and nursing homes
- Public transportation
- Establishments where more than 50 percent of sales come from alcohol
- Public gatherings and other special events open to the public
- Any building that has received a Special Event Retailer's license
- Public playgrounds
- Public parks or athletic facilities
- The Cook County Forest Preserve District
- Colleges and universities
- Gaming facilities
- Stadiums
- Libraries
- Airports
- Amusement parks, zoos and museums
- Nuclear energy facilities
- Places where guns are already prohibited by federal law
- Businesses where a sign is posted indicating that the owner does not allow guns on the property
- Someone else's private residence, unless you have the owner's permission

9. Can I carry on public transportation?

No; firearms are not allowed on public transportation or in public transit facilities such as bus and train stations.

10. Can I legally transport or possess ammunition while traveling in Illinois?

Yes.

11. What should I do if I am pulled over by law enforcement and am carrying a gun?

If asked, you should tell the officer you are carrying a gun and where the gun is located.

12. I am an active military member or a law enforcement or corrections officer. Am I exempt from any of the concealed-carry requirements?

An active, qualified law enforcement or corrections officer is not required to take the 16-hour training course if he or she has successfully completed firearms training as required by his or her agency and is authorized by his or her agency to carry a firearm.

Being an active, retired or honorably discharged member of the U.S. Armed Forces counts as eight hours of training toward the 16-hour requirement.

13. I am a retired law enforcement or corrections officer. Am I exempt from any of the concealed carry requirements?

An applicant who retired in good standing as a law enforcement or corrections officer will receive 8 hours of training credit if he or she previously completed firearms training in connection with his or her previous employment as a law enforcement or corrections officer

14. What kind of mental illnesses disqualify a person from receiving a concealed-carry license?

In order to obtain a license, you must be eligible for a valid FOID card at the time of application, so the same illnesses that disqualify a person for a FOID card will also disqualify him or her from obtaining a concealed-carry license.

A person is ineligible to receive a FOID Card or concealed-carry license under the following circumstances:

1. Is addicted to narcotics
2. Has been a patient in a mental health facility within the past five years
3. Poses a clear and present danger to himself or herself, any other person or the community at large
4. Has been found to be intellectually, mentally or developmentally disabled
5. Has been involuntarily admitted to a mental health facility

15. If I already have a TAN card, do I need to retake the test?

If you have received a firearm control card from the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, you are exempt from the training requirements of the law.

16. What are the qualifications to teach a concealed carry class?

The State Police have started approving instructors. A concealed-carry instructor must

1. Be at least 21 years old.
2. Be a legal resident of the U.S.
3. Meet the same requirements as any applicant for a concealed-carry license as well as any additional requirements established by the State Police
4. Possess a high school diploma or GED
5. Have at least one of the following valid firearms instructor certifications:
 - a. Certification from a law enforcement agency
 - b. Certification from a firearms instructor course offered by a state or federal governmental agency
 - c. Certification from a firearms instructor qualification course offered by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board or
 - d. Certification from an entity approved by the State Police that offers firearms instructor education and training in the use and safety of firearms

17. I own a small business. Do I have to allow people to carry weapons in my store?

No. But if you choose to prohibit weapons in your store you will need to post a sign on the entrance indicating that weapons are prohibited. The required signage is available for download on the State Police website.

18. If I do not want to allow people to carry guns in my restaurant, what steps do I need to take?

If you choose to prohibit weapons in your restaurant you will need to post a sign on the entrance indicating that weapons are prohibited. The required signage is available for download on the State Police website.

19. I do not want someone bringing a gun into my house or onto my residential property. Is there a way to stop them?

The law does not allow anyone to bring a gun into your home without your permission, and you do not have to post a sign in order to prohibit guns on your residential property.

20. I do not want my employees to bring guns to work with them. Is there anything I can do to stop them?

As an employer, you may prohibit employees from bringing guns to work. However, an employee will be allowed to keep his or her gun locked in a vehicle, even if the vehicle is parked on your property.

For more information, call the State Police at 217-782-7980 or visit the Illinois State Police's website at <http://ccl4illinois.com/ccw/Public/Home.aspx>. They continue to post updates as more information becomes available.