



This guide only applies to the carrying of a concealed weapon with a license. Do not rely on the information in this brochure for non-license carry.

Information contained within this brochure is valid as of the revision date and may change pursuant to a change in Wisconsin statutes or administrative codes. For the most up-to-date information please refer to the following websites:

DOJ:

[www.doj.state.wi.us](http://www.doj.state.wi.us)

WI State Statutes:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/rsb/stats.html>

Wisconsin  
Department of Justice

Crime Information Bureau  
Firearms Unit  
P. O. Box 7130  
Madison, WI 53707-7130

Phone: 608-261-7998



# Concealed Weapons License Information

**WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE**

**BRAD D. SCHIMEL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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## Firearm Safety

Everyone should learn the four fundamental rules of firearms safety and follow them at all times to prevent the unsafe or unintentional firing of a weapon.

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
3. Be certain of your target and what's beyond.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you want the gun to fire.

A key component of firearm safety is maintaining control of the weapon. When you maintain control of the weapon you ensure it is not accessible to unauthorized users or children. Use a holster or carry system that securely retains your weapon to enhance your safety and the safety of those around you.

## Law Enforcement Contact

The concealed carry law requires you to display your photo identification and concealed carry license upon the request of a law enforcement officer when you are carrying a concealed weapon. For your safety and the safety of the law enforcement officer, we recommend the following actions to avoid raising alarm and ensure the contact goes as smoothly as possible.

1. Cooperate fully with the officer.
2. If you are in a vehicle, roll down the window.
3. At night, turn on the dome light.
4. Stay in the vehicle unless the officer tells you to get out.
5. Keep your hands where the officer can see them. If you are in a vehicle, the best place to put them is on the steering wheel.

6. Immediately and calmly tell the officer that you have a concealed carry license and are carrying a weapon.
7. Tell the officer where your permit and weapon are located. Do not reach for them unless specifically told to by the officer. Don't make any quick movements.

In some circumstances the officer may ask to take temporary possession of the weapon to ensure the safety of the officer and others. However, in routine non-arrest contacts the officer will return the weapon to you at the end of the contact.

## Other State and Federal Property

Federal law applies to federal government property and locations. A Wisconsin concealed carry license does not necessarily authorize carry of a weapon on federal property.

A Wisconsin concealed carry license may or may not be accepted in other states. Each state has the power to regulate what nonresident permits it accepts. We suggest that you contact each state you intend to travel to for the most up to date concealed carry regulations.

## Prohibited Locations

A concealed carry license does NOT allow you to carry a weapon in the following locations:

- Any portion of a building that is a police station, sheriff's office, state patrol station, or the office of a division of criminal investigation special agent of the DOJ.
- Any portion of a building that is a prison, jail, house of correction, or secured correctional facility.
- The Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center, the Wisconsin Resource Center, or any secured unit or secured portion of a mental health institution, including a facility designated as the Maximum Security Facility at the Mendota Mental Health Institute.
- Any portion of a building that is a county, state, or federal courthouse.
- Any portion of a building that is a municipal courtroom, if court is in session.
- A place beyond a security checkpoint in an airport.

## School Grounds & Premises

As a concealed carry licensee you may possess a firearm within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a school. However, it is a felony to possess a firearm in or on the grounds of a school unless you are within one of the narrowly defined statutory exceptions listed under Wis. Stats. s. 948.605 (2)(b). It is illegal to possess any other dangerous weapons (e.g. knife, taser, etc.) on school premises unless you are within one of the statutory exceptions listed under s. 948.61 (3).

A school is defined as a public school, parochial or private school, or tribal school, which provides an educational program for one or more grades between grades K and 12 and is commonly known as an elementary, middle, junior high, senior high or high school.

## Taverns and Alcohol

A licensee may carry a concealed weapon in an establishment where alcohol is consumed or served so long as they are not consuming alcohol on the premises. Wis. Stats. s. 941.237(3). It is a class A misdemeanor punishable by 9 months jail and/or \$10,000 fine for any person, whether or not they are a licensee, to possess a firearm while under the influence of an intoxicant.

## Employers

Employers may prohibit employees from carrying a concealed weapon while at work. That prohibition does not extend to a weapon kept in the employee's own motor vehicle, even if the vehicle is used for work purposes, or parked on the employer's lot.

## Businesses

Businesses may prohibit people from carrying concealed weapons on their property. This prohibition does not extend to weapons kept in vehicles in parking areas. Notice can be verbal or via a sign posted in a prominent place near all of the entrances to the part of the building to which the restriction applies.

## Residential and Non-residential Property

The owner of residential or non-residential property may prohibit anyone who is not an owner, lessee, or an occupant of the property from entering or remaining on the property while carrying a weapon. Notice can be verbal or via a sign posted in a prominent place near all of the entrances to the part of the building to which the restriction applies. This prohibition does not extend to weapons kept in vehicles in parking areas.

State and local governments and colleges and universities may prohibit the possession of weapons in public or privately owned buildings by posting a sign in the same manner as previously described. This prohibition does not extend to weapons kept in vehicles in parking areas.

The carrying of weapons on public land is generally permitted. However, there are many variables to concealed carry in buildings and on public and private land. Refer to Wis. Stats. s. 943.13 and the DNR website: [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) for specific information.

## If You Use Your Weapon in Self Defense

Ensure your safety and request medical assistance if needed by calling 911 or asking a witness to do so. Law enforcement needs to be notified immediately if you use your weapon. Remain at a safe location on the scene and, unless you are facing an imminent threat, secure your weapon so arriving officers do not mistake you as a threat to them. It is important to remember that regardless of your intent or actions you must follow the directions of on-duty law enforcement officers who must quickly analyze the situation, make a threat assessment, and initiate an investigation. Please keep both hands in plain view of the officers. You may be placed in temporary custody until law enforcement can secure the scene, make it safe, and determine what occurred. Comply with any request to be handcuffed and searched until the officer can determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. Off-duty police officers involved in a shooting are handled in this same manner. Unless the investigating officers believe that you have acted unlawfully you will not be arrested.

**Suspension or Revocation of License:** Any potential change to licensee eligibility may constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of a license to carry a concealed weapon. If a license is suspended or revoked, the licensee must return the license to the Department of Justice personally or by certified mail within seven (7) days of suspension or revocation.

**Lost or Destroyed License:** If a license is lost or destroyed the licensee may obtain a replacement by submitting form DJ-LE-285, available on the DOJ website, along with a \$12 fee and any remaining portions of the license to the Department of Justice. If the license has been lost a new license number will be assigned.

**Change of Address:** Licensees are required to notify the Department of Justice of a change of address within thirty (30) days of any such change. This notification must be done by submitting form DJ-LE-285, which can be found on the DOJ website.

**Weapons Permitted with License:** According to Wis. Stats. s. 175.60(1)(j) "weapon" means a handgun, an electric weapon as defined in s. 941.295(1c)(a), or a billy club.