

FIREARMS REGISTRATION



**OUTLINE
of the
General Requirements**

FIREARMS REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. Take the “Firearms Application” to a licensed gun dealer.
 - A. You purchase the gun.
 - B. The gun dealer completes that portion of the “Firearms Application” pertaining to the firearm.
 - C. You complete that portion of the “Firearms Application” pertaining to you.
2. Bring the completed “Firearms Application” to Room 3077, Firearms Registration Section, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or Wednesday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., along with:
 - A. Proof of residency in the District of Columbia, e.g., Driver’s License or Lease Agreement, etc.) and
 - B. Two (2) front-face photographs, passport size.
3. You will be given a multiple choice test of 20 questions. The study booklet is available in the Firearms Registration Section.
4. You will be fingerprinted at 300 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Third Floor. The cost is \$35.00, cash or money order.
5. You will be charged a \$13.00 Firearms Registration Fee (cash or money order) for each weapon to be registered. This fee is to be paid at the time the application is submitted.
6. The Firearms Registration process will take approximately eight (8) weeks.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

When transporting your firearm it must be unloaded, wrapped securely or placed in a gun case on the back seat of your car.

If you are stopped by the ***Police***, you must immediately tell the officer that you are en route to the Firearms Registration Section, to register the firearm.

The gun dealer will not give you the firearm until you return with the "Firearms Application" stamped "***Approved***" by the Metropolitan Police Department, Firearms Registration Section. If you have possession of the firearm (s), you must IMMEDIATELY bring it to the Firearms Registration Section, Room 3077, 300 Indiana Avenue, N.W.

NOTE: RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS AND REVOLVERS ARE REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. SEMI-AUTOMATIC HANDGUNS ARE NOT REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT,
FIREARMS REGISTRATION SECTION, 727-4275**

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS

The “Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975” requires that firearms be registered with the Metropolitan Police Department. In addition, it specifies certain procedures and prerequisites for the registration of firearms. In order that you, as a citizen of the District of Columbia, may have a clearer understanding of this recent legislation, this pamphlet has been published to acquaint you with the broad aspects of this law. Specific questions should be directed to the Firearms Registration Section, on 727-4275, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

I. **Prohibited Firearms.**

Firearms ineligible for registration include:

1. Sawed-off shotguns (barrel less than 20 inches). (D.C. Code 7-2501.01 (15) (2007 Ed.)
2. Short-barreled rifles (barrel less than 16 inches and has an overall length of less than 26 inches.
3. Machine guns. (Defined as any firearm which shoots, is designed to shoot, ***or can be readily converted or restored to shoot:*** automatically, more than 1 shot by a sin function of the trigger; or semi-automatically, more than 12 shots without manual reloading.)
4. Semi-Automatic Handguns.

II. Prerequisites.

To obtain a registration certificate, an applicant must:

1. Be 21 years of age or older. (Applicants between the age of 18 and 21 may qualify if they have a notarized statement from their parent or guardian stating that the parent or guardian assumes civil liability for all damages resulting from the applicant's use of the firearm. This special legislation, however, will expire on the applicant's twenty-first birthday.)
2. Not stand convicted of a crime of violence, weapons offense or of a violation of this Act.
3. Not be under indictment for a crime of violence (excluding larceny) or a weapons offense.
4. Not stand convicted within the past five years for a narcotics or dangerous drug offense, threats to do bodily harm or for assault.
5. Not have been acquitted of any criminal charge by reason of insanity or adjudicated a chronic alcoholic by any court within the past five years.
6. Not have been voluntarily or involuntarily committed to any mental hospital or institution within the past five years. (Not applicable if a medical certification of recovery indicating the applicant is capable of safe and responsible possession of a firearm is submitted with the application.)
7. Not appear to suffer from a physical defect which would make it unsafe for him to possess and use a firearm safely and responsibly.
8. Not found negligent in any firearm mishap causing death or injury to another human being.
9. Not ineligible to possess a pistol under 22 D.C. Code 4503 (2007 Ed.)
10. Pass a written test.
11. Pass a vision test or possess a valid D.C. Permit

III. Application Procedures.

All applicants must appear in person at the Firearms Registration Section, Room 3077, 300 Indiana Avenue, N.W., with a completed application form. This form must be completed and approved by the Police Department prior to any transfer of firearms in the District. A \$13.00 non-refundable fee will be required with the filing of the application.² In addition to the completed form, the applicant must also submit two full-face passport photographs, which have been taken within a thirty-day period preceding the filing of the application. An FBI criminal history check (requiring fingerprints at the cost of \$35.00) is also required.

Each applicant must also satisfactorily meet the vision requirements that are either better than or equal to that required to obtain a valid D.C. driver's license. Presentation of a valid D.C. operator's permit will satisfy this requirement.

IV. Filing Times.

An application for a registration certificate must be filed and a certificate issued before taking possession of any firearm from a licensed dealer.

In all other cases an application for registration shall be filed immediately after a firearm is brought into the District. It shall be deemed compliance with the preceding sentence if such person personally communicates with the Metropolitan Police Department, Gun Registration Section on 202-727-4275, and provides such information as may be demanded; provided, that such person files an application for a registration certificate within 48 hours after such communication.

V. Duties and Responsibilities of Registrant.

1. Every registrant must notify the Chief of Police in writing immediately, of the following:
 - A. Discovery of loss, theft, or destruction of a registration certificate describing the circumstances.
 - B. Any change of name or address recorded on the certificate.
 - C. Sale, transfer or other disposition of any firearm.
2. The registration certificate must be returned to the Police Department immediately when the registered firearm has been:
 - A. Lost
 - B. Stolen
 - C. Destroyed
 - D. Sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of.
3. The registrant must have the registration certificate in his or her possession whenever he has possession of the firearm, and exhibit it upon demand to a member of the Metropolitan Police Department or other law enforcement officer.
4. Firearms or ammunition may not be loaned, borrowed, given or rented to or from another person.
5. Firearms may not be pawned.
6. When a firearm is being lawfully transported from one location to another, it must be unloaded, securely wrapped, and carried in open view.
7. No person shall carry or possess a firearm on public space in the District of Columbia unless traveling directly to or from a lawful firearm related activity.
8. No firearm shall be discharged in the District of Columbia without first obtaining a special written permit from the Chief of Police authorizing the discharge.
9. Use of a firearm against another person is a criminal offense unless your life or the life of another person is in immediate danger.

VI. Revocation of Registration Certificate.

1. Revocation shall occur under the following conditions:
2. The pre-requisites set forth in Part II are not met.
3. Information furnished in the application for registration proves to be intentionally false.
4. Registrant is found in violation of the duties and responsibilities set forth in Item V.

VII. Procedures for Denial or Revocation.

If an application for registration is denied or a registration certificate is revoked, the applicant or registrant will be notified by mail. The applicant or registrant will have 15 days from the receipt of such notification to appeal to the Police Department with further evidence for consideration. If the applicant does not appear within the required 15 days the denial or revocation will become final.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the applicant or registrant will be notified within 10 days of the final decision of the Police Department.

In case of a final negative decision by the Metropolitan Police Department, further appeal may be made to the District of Columbia, Court of Appeals, within 15 days of the Police Department's final decision.

After having been notified of a final unfavorable decision, the applicant or registrant must either turn in his firearm to the Police Department as detailed in Item XI; remove the firearm from the District; or otherwise lawfully dispose of the firearm.

VIII. Ammunition.

No person shall possess ammunition within the District unless:

- A. He is a licensed dealer.
- B. He is a holder of a valid registration certificate for a firearm of the same gauge or caliber as the ammunition he possesses.
- C. He holds an ammunition collector's certificate as of September 24, 1976.

VIX. Responsibility of Estate Executors or Administrators.

The executor of or administrator of an estate containing a firearm shall notify the Firearms Registration Section on 727-4275 within 30 days of his appointment. Until the lawful disposition of such firearm, the executor or administrator shall be charged with the duties and responsibilities as described in Item V. The executor or administrator, however, will not be liable for any criminal penalties of this Act

X. Permissible Sales of Firearms.

Private individuals may sell or transfer legal firearms and ammunition only to a licensed dealer within the District of Columbia. Individuals may purchase long guns only from a licensed dealer, and such transaction must be made in person. Delivery of the firearm, however, will be withheld for D.C. residents until the issuance of a registration certificate by the Metropolitan Police Department. Non-residents may purchase firearms within the District only with proof that the possession of such firearm is legal in the jurisdiction where he resides and not in conflict with federal law. The sale of handguns is prohibited within the District of Columbia.

Ammunition may be sold or transferred when it is of the same gauge or caliber described in the registration certificate or other proof in the case of a non-resident. Any licensed dealer may sell ammunition to any person holding an ammunition collector's certificate which is effective prior to September 25, 1976. This certificate must be presented at the time of sale.

XI. Voluntary Surrender and Immunity.

Individuals may voluntarily surrender any firearm, ammunition, or destructive device to the Police Department and shall be immune to prosecution of any violation of this Act. Delivery may be made to a police station or by requesting a police officer to your home or place of business to collect it. All firearms should be unloaded and wrapped in a package; and in the case of delivery to a police facility, the package should be carried in open view. No identification will be required of the person delivering and abandoning the firearm to the Police Department. No money will be paid for firearms which are surrendered to the Police Department.

XII. Penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall upon conviction be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or be imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

XIII. Antique Firearm.

Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898; and any replica of such firearm.