

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title		
Firearms Registration and Concealed Pistol Licenses		
Topic	Series	Number
SPT	902	01
Effective Date		
December 15, 2023		
Replaces: GO-SPT-902.01 (Firearm Registration and Receipt of Abandoned or Found Weapons), Effective Date June 27, 2012		
Rescinds: TT-10-096-21 (Update to Requirement to Show Proof of License to Carry Concealed Firearm), Issued October 29, 2021		

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I. PURPOSE

Firearms, ammunition, and destructive devices are defined and regulated by [Chapter 25 of the DC Official Code](#). The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) registers firearms and issues concealed pistol licenses in accordance with [DC Official Code § 7-2502](#). The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for processing applications for firearm registration certificates and concealed pistol licenses and guidelines for police encounters with individuals lawfully possessing firearms in the District of Columbia. This order also includes intake procedures for found and abandoned firearms, ammunition, and destructive devices defined by [DC Official Code § 7-2501.01](#).

II. PROCEDURES

A. Processing Applications

1. The chief of police or his or her designee shall provide, in writing, reasons for the denial of any application or revocation of a registration certificate or concealed pistol license.
2. Subject to certain exceptions outlined below, no person or organization shall receive, possess, control, transfer, sell, gift, or deliver a firearm within the District of Columbia, unless the person or organization holds a valid District firearm registration certificate. The firearm registration requirement applies to the following:

Required Firearm Registration
a. All residents of the District of Columbia, including retired law enforcement officers (MPD or outside agencies) with LEOSA/HR-218 privileges who reside in the District.
b. Business owners in the District of Columbia.
c. Individuals with concealed pistol license.

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| d. MPD-certified firearms instructors, for the purpose of conducting firearms training. |
| e. Private security companies that employ armed special police officers (SPOs). |

3. The firearm registration requirement does not apply to the following:

Exceptions for Firearm Registration
a. District, state, or federal law enforcement officers, including certain active or reserve armed forces personnel, who are authorized to possess a firearm while on duty in the performance of official authorized functions.
b. The inventory of a licensed firearm dealer operating in the District of Columbia.
c. Non-residents traveling through the District of Columbia without deviation whose possession of such firearm is lawful in their place of residence, provided that such weapon shall be transported in accordance with DC Official Code § 22-4502.02 .
d. Any non-resident participating in any lawful recreational firearm-related activity in the District, whose possession of such firearm is lawful in their place of residence, provided that such weapon shall be transported in accordance with DC Official Code § 22-4502.02 .
e. Any person who temporarily possesses a firearm while participating in a firearms training and safety class conducted by a firearms instructor.

4. In accordance with [DC Official Code § 7-2502.02](#), the following firearms are not eligible for registration:

Prohibited Firearms
a. Sawed-off shotgun (i.e., having a barrel of less than 18 inches in length or a firearm made from a shotgun if such firearm as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches or any barrel of less than 18 inches in length);
b. Machine gun (i.e., capable of automatic fire);
c. Short-barreled rifle (i.e., having any barrel less than 16 inches in length or a firearm made from a rifle if such firearm as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches or any barrel of less than 16 inches);
d. Pistol not validly registered to the current registrant except in accordance with DC Official Code § 7-2502.02 ;
e. Assault weapon as defined by DC Official Code § 7-2501.01 ;
f. .50 caliber BMG rifle;
g. Designated unsafe firearm prohibited by DC Official Code § 7-2505.04 and 24 DCMR § 2323 ; and
h. Ghost gun.

5. Firearm registration certificates do not expire.
6. A person is eligible for a license to carry a concealed pistol if the person meets legal requirements pursuant to [DC Official Code § 7-2509.02](#). Concealed pistol licenses expire in two years. Individuals are required to timely submit renewal applications to maintain a valid concealed pistol license.
7. MPD Firearms Registration Branch (FRB) personnel shall process applications for firearm registration certificates and concealed pistol licenses. Approved registration certificates and concealed pistol licenses shall be issued in PDF format and delivered via email to the applicant.
8. FRB personnel shall store all documents or files, whether electronic or

tangible, that contain social security numbers in a secure manner. Social security numbers shall not be stored on computers or other electronic devices that are not secured against unauthorized access. Documents or other materials containing social security numbers shall be disposed of in a manner that protects personal information (e.g., shredded).

9. The FRB commanding official shall ensure that firearm registration and concealed pistol license records are maintained and provided to District of Columbia courts upon request.

B. Interacting with Individuals Lawfully Possessing Firearms

1. During an investigatory stop, concealed pistol license holders are required to disclose that they are carrying a concealed pistol, present both their concealed pistol license and their firearm registration certificate, identify the location of their concealed pistol, and comply with all lawful orders and directions from a member, including to allow a pat down of his or her person and to permit the member to take possession of their handgun for so long as necessary for the safety of the member or the public.
2. Individuals may present proof of their concealed pistol license and registration certificate by showing members the PDF on their phone or by presenting paper or laminated cards which they may have printed.
3. Members may contact the Command Information Center (CIC) to confirm the validity of a concealed pistol license or firearm registration certificate issued by the District of Columbia.

C. Found and Abandoned Weapons

1. Individuals may voluntarily surrender any firearm, ammunition, or destructive device to MPD in accordance with [DC Official Code § 7-2507.05](#) and shall be immune from prosecution for any violation of [DC Official Code § 7-2502 et seq.](#)
2. Members shall advise individuals that abandoned/found weapons should be unloaded. Firearms may be delivered to a police station or the individual may ask MPD to pick up the weapon.
3. When an individual reports that he or she found a weapon, the receiving member shall properly log the recovered firearm, complete an incident report, and notify FRB.
 - a. Members shall attempt to obtain sufficient information to complete the report but, pursuant to [DC Official Code § 7-2507.05\(a\)\(4\)](#), no person shall be required to furnish identification, photographs, or fingerprints. If the individual does not wish to identify him or herself, the receiving member shall be listed as the reporting person. Descriptive information may be used when no other information is available.

- b. Members shall safely package the weapon by ensuring that it is unloaded, securely wrapped, and tagged prior to submission to the Evidence Control Division (ECD). Members shall ensure that the weapon is properly classified according to the circumstances.
 - c. Members shall notify FRB when a firearm is surrendered.
4. Upon notification of a surrendered firearm, FRB shall query the gun registration database to determine whether the firearm is registered. If the registered firearm is located, members shall update the database with information on the firearm.
5. Except in the cases of announced gun buy-back programs, no money shall be paid for firearms that are surrendered to the MPD.



Pamela A. Smith
Chief of Police

Amendment #	Page #	Description of Change	Effective Date of Change	Name and Title of Authorizing Member
1	2	Revised Part II.A.4. for consistency with DC Official Code § 7-2502.02 .	12/18/2023	Maureen O'Connell, Director, Policy and Standards Branch
2	3	Revised Part II.B.1. to correct the typographical error in the word "license".	2/14/2025	Maureen O'Connell, Director, Policy and Standards Branch