

GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject Firearms Registration and Receipt of Abandoned or Found Weapons		
Topic	Series	Number
SPT	902	01
Effective Date June 27, 2012		
Replaces: GO-SPT-902.01 (Firearm Registration and Receipt of Abandoned or Found Weapons), Effective Date: November 23, 2010		

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I. BACKGROUND

D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.01 (Registration Requirements) provides: “No person or organization in the District of Columbia shall possess or control any firearm, unless the person or organization holds a valid registration certificate for the firearm.”

II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is to register firearms in accordance with the D.C. Official Code and as applicable, the United States Code, and to accept weapons voluntarily abandoned by citizens.

III. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this order, the following terms shall have the meanings designated:

1. Firearm – Any weapon which will, or is designed or redesigned, made or remade, readily converted or restored, and intended to, expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such device; or any firearm muffler or silencer.

Firearm does not include antique firearms; destructive devices; any device used exclusively for line throwing, signaling, or safety, and required or recommended by the Coast Guard or Interstate Commerce Commission; or any device used exclusively for firing explosive rivets, stud cartridges, or similar industrial ammunition and incapable for use as a weapon.

2. **Antique Firearm** – Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap or similar type of ignition system) manufactured on or before 1898; and any replica of these firearms if it is not designed or redesigned for using rim-fire or conventional center-fire fixed ammunition; or uses rim-fire or conventional ammunition that is no longer manufactured in the United States that is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.
3. **Ammunition** – Cartridge cases, shells, projectiles (including shot), primers, bullets (including restricted pistol bullets) propellant powder, or other devices or materials designed, redesigned, or intended for use in a firearm or destructive device.
4. **Destructive Device** – An explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, or similar device; any device by whatever name known will, or is designed or redesigned, or may be readily converted or restored to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant through a smooth bore barrel, except a shotgun; any device containing tear gas or a chemically similar lacrimator or sternutator by whatever name known; any device designed or redesigned, made or remade, or readily converted or restored, and intended to stun or disable a person by means of electric shock; any combination of parts designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device; or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; any combination of parts designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device.
5. **Self-Defense Spray** – A mixture of lacrimator, including chloroacetophenone, alpha-chloroacetophenone, phenylchloromethylketone, ortho-chlorobenzaldehyde or oleoresin capsicum. The spray is designed to propel from an aerosol container, labeled with or accompanied by clearly written instructions as to its use and have a date indicating its anticipated useful life.
6. **Firearms Instructor** – Individual who is certified by the Chief of Police or his/her designee to be qualified to teach firearms training courses.
7. **Member** – Sworn or civilian MPD employee or MPD Reserve Corps

member.

8. Social Security Number – Includes both the entire nine (9) digit number or more than four (4) sequential digits of the number.

IV. REGULATIONS

- A. The Metropolitan Police Department shall not be liable for the issuance of, or the denial of a registration certificate. The MPD shall not be liable for the use of a firearm registered under D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.01 (Registration Requirements).
- B. The reasons for the denial of an application for a registration certificate or revocation of a registration certificate of a handgun, by the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall be stated in writing.
- C. A registration certificate shall not be issued for:
 1. A sawed-off shotgun;
 2. Machine gun;
 3. Short-barreled rifle;
 4. Assault weapon (as defined in D.C. Official Code § 7-2501.01);
 5. .50 caliber BMG rifle; or
 6. An unsafe firearm prohibited under section 504 of the Firearms Regulation Act of 2008.
- D. A registration certificate shall be required for:
 1. Any organization that employs at least one (1) commissioned special police officer or other employee licensed to carry a firearm, and arms the employee with a firearm during the employee's duty hours.
 2. A police officer who has retired from the MPD.
 3. Retired police officers or retired law enforcement members from outside agencies that reside in the District of Columbia, requesting licensing to carry under United States Code § 18-44.926B (Carrying of Concealed Firearms by Qualified Law Enforcement Officers), also known as HR 218.
 4. Any person who seeks to register a firearm for use in self defense within that person's home.

5. A firearms instructor or organization that employs a firearms instructor for the purpose of conducting firearms training.
- E. Individuals may voluntarily surrender any firearm, ammunition, or destructive device to the MPD and shall be immune from prosecution for any violation of D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.01.
- F. Except in the cases of announced gun buy-back programs, no money shall be paid for firearms that are surrendered to the MPD.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Receiving Abandoned or Found Weapons
 1. Members shall advise individuals requesting information that abandoned/found weapons:
 - a. May be delivered, in person, to a police station or the individual may request for police to respond to a residence or place of business; and
 - b. All firearms should be unloaded, packaged and carried in open view.
 2. When an individual reports that he/she found a weapon, the receiving member shall complete a PD Form 251 (Incident-Based Event Report).
 - a. Members shall attempt to obtain sufficient information to complete the report. If the individual does not wish to identify himself/herself, the receiving member shall be listed as the reporting person.
 - b. No identification shall be required of the person delivering an abandoned firearm to the MPD.

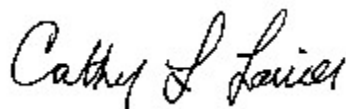
NOTE: Although not required, identification may be requested and recorded on police reports when provided by the individual and descriptive information may be used when no other information is available.
 3. The receiving member shall complete a separate PD Form 81 (Property Record) for each weapon received as outlined in General Order 601.1 (Recording, Handling and Disposition of Property Coming into the Custody of the Department). The weapon shall be unloaded, securely wrapped, tagged and turned over to the property clerk.

4. All inquiries concerning the disposition or status of abandoned weapons shall be directed to the Property Clerk, Evidence Control Branch.
- B. Personnel assigned to the Gun Control Section, Security Officers Management Branch, Police Business Services Division, Corporate Support Bureau, shall be responsible for processing Firearms Registration Certificates.
1. Members shall collect social security numbers from applicants during the registration/re-registration process to ensure their proper identification.
 2. Members shall ensure social security numbers collected from applicants are kept confidential and are not released to anyone outside MPD unless otherwise authorized by applicable laws or regulations.
 3. Members shall store all documents or files that contain social security numbers in a physically secure manner.
 - a. Social security numbers shall not be stored on computers or other electronic devices that are not secured against unauthorized access.
 - b. Documents or other materials containing social security numbers shall not be thrown away in the trash; they shall be discarded or destroyed only in a manner that protects their confidentiality (e.g., shredding).
- C. The Director, Security Officers Management Branch shall:
1. Be responsible for establishing and maintaining police records relative to issuance of Firearms Registration Certificates and have authority to provide the courts of District of Columbia certification relating to those records.
 2. Have responsibility and authority for establishing and maintaining police records relative to the issuance of a license to carry a pistol and the authority to provide the courts of the District of Columbia certification relating to those records.
 3. Establish and maintain records of persons who have purchased self-defense sprays.
 4. Make available the PD Form 102 (District of Columbia Self-Defense Spray Registration) to vendors engaged in the sale of self-defense

sprays.

VI. CROSS REFERENCES

- A. General Order 601.1 (Recording, Handling and Disposition of Property Coming into the Custody of the Department)
- B. D.C. Official Code, Title 7, Chapter 22 (Homeland Security), Chapter 25 (Firearms Control)
- C. United States Code 18-44.926B (Carrying of Concealed Firearms by Qualified Law Enforcement Officers)



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