



American Gun

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In This Issue

PAGE 1

INTRODUCTION

PAGE 2

CARRYING GUNS IN
AMERICA
CONCEALED CARRY

PAGE 3

OPEN CARRY

PAGE 4

CONCEALED CARRY
VERSUS OPEN CARRY

PAGE 5

PROS AND CONS

PAGE 7

WHICH IS BETTER FOR
YOU

PAGE 18

FINAL WORDS



INTRODUCTION

Understanding the federal and state laws concerning carrying a concealed weapon, but merely following all of the statutory laws does not guarantee that you will receive a permit. Depending on the state, since they all have their own unique permit system, there are several standards and requirements required of potential applicants.

These laws focus on the actual individual applying for a permit, which are particularly important because they actually apply to you and your circumstances when you go to apply for a CCW permit.



Carrying Guns in America

In America, there are two ways of carrying firearms – concealed carry and open carry – as discussed right in the beginning too. As there aren't any federal laws covering the issuance of open carry or concealed carry permits or licenses, the states are responsible to determine the extent to which those can be granted. Almost all 50 states (at some level), permits concealed carry, though, some states have implemented more restrictions as compared to others. New York, South Carolina, Texas, Illinois, Florida, California, and Washington DC are the states that have prohibited open carry of firearms in public places.

Concealed Carry

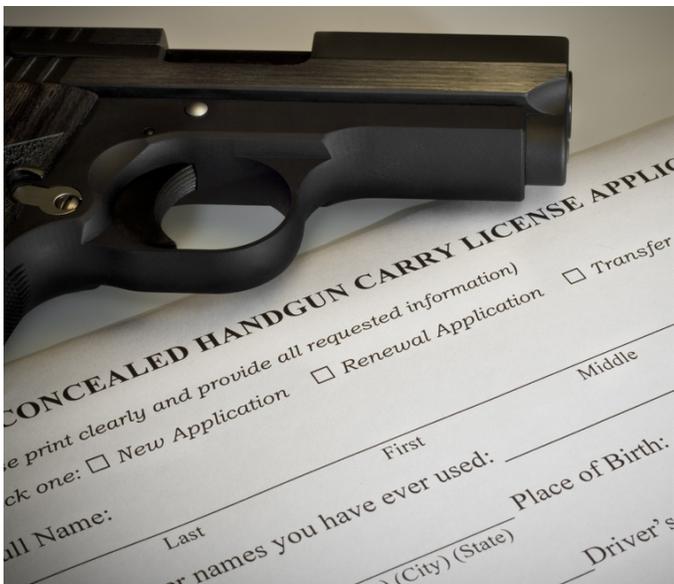
Concealed carry laws have been grouped into three categories – may issue, shall issue, and unrestricted.

May Issue – these states require a license or permit for concealed carry. The local authorities are provides some discretion about whether permits and licenses should be issued or not. The laws vary from highly permissive to difficulty in obtaining permits, unless considerable justifications have been provided by the applicant.

For example, in New Jersey all applicants have to exhibit 'justifiable need' like urgent need of self-protection which can't be avoided by different means besides issuance of license or permit to carry a firearm.



- **Shall Issue** – these states require the issuance of a license or a permit after the individual fulfills the standard criteria which includes a background check and a minimum age. Furthermore, a few states also require gun safety training before issuing a license or permit.



- **Unrestricted** – no need of license or permit but there might be certain regulations about carrying guns in public.



Open Carry

Three states, including Illinois, Florida, and California, as well as the District of Columbia, forbid the open carry of firearms in public. The open carry laws' restrictiveness varies greatly from state to state. For example, both Georgia and Hawaii require permits and licenses but the process in Hawaii is more restrictive as compared to Georgia which issues permits on the basis of shall issue.

In certain states, open carry for non-prohibited individuals – who convicted felonies and noncitizens with no plans to immigrate permanently – needs no specific licenses or permits. Moreover, there are some states that have no single law for open carry which indicates that all regulations are typically determined on local level.

In Oregon, Portland restricts the open carry in an ordinance, although there isn't any statewide law regarding this. States that prohibit open carry practice like Illinois and New York, have exceptions in certain cases under specific circumstances like hunting. Other states, like Texas prohibit the open carrying of handguns but allow the open carry of long guns.





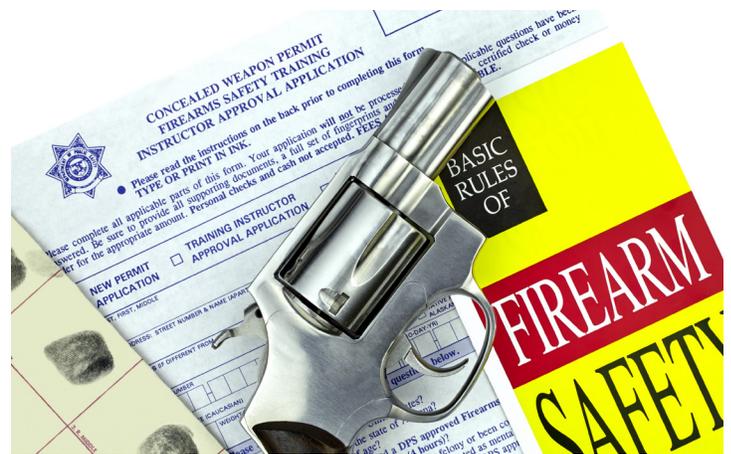
Concealed Carry vs. Open Carry

There are several laws in United States and other countries regarding open carry and concealed carry. Concealed carry is to conceal a firearm to ensure it is hidden from public view, typically underneath a vest or a coat, around the leg, hip, or lower back, or at the side of the rib cage. On the other hand, open carry is carrying the gun so that it is exposed to public eye. Majority of the states permit concealed carry rather than open carry. However, few of the states have opposite view and permit individuals to carry their guns openly if they want to carry it at all.

Then there are some states where numerous in-between laws are implemented, like permitting both concealed and open carry, or requiring no permit for open carry but a permit or license for concealed carry. There is a lot of ongoing debate regarding open vs. concealed,

which is quite complex what with the numbers laws in this regard, the reason no conclusion has yet been made regarding the best possible public policy.

There are still numerous issues regarding public discomfort with witnessing someone openly carrying a gun, questions of deterrent effects of concealed and open carry, technical disadvantages and advantages of both approaches during a criminal act or attack, individual rights issues, considerations about bodily comfort, and public relations worry for gun supporters.



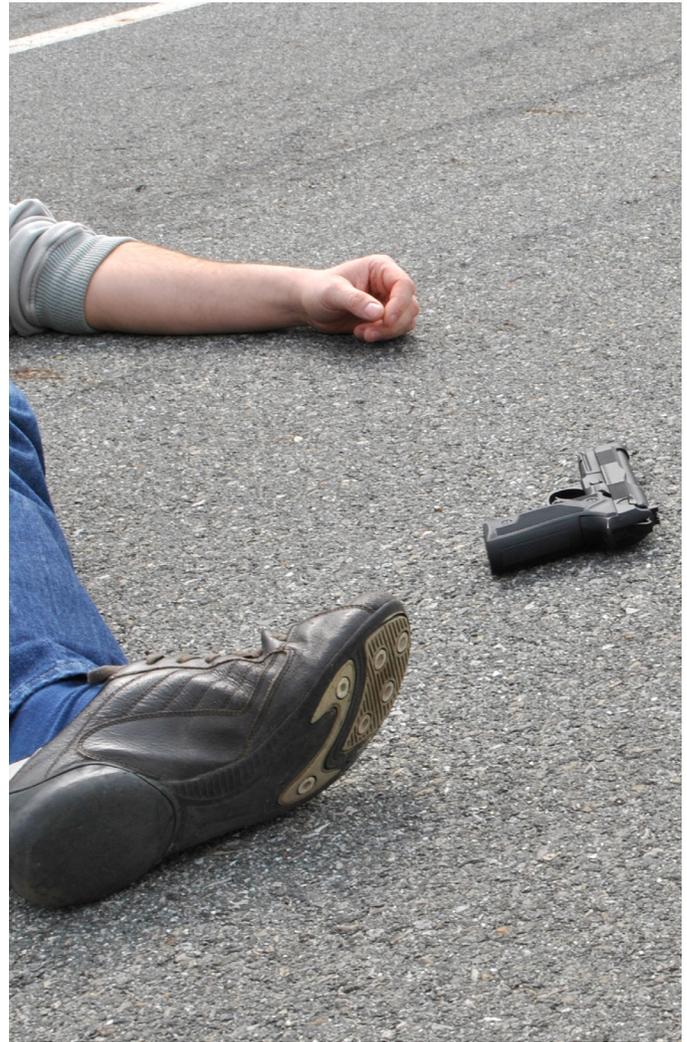
Pros and Cons

Some prefer open carry while some believe that concealed carry is a better option as it doesn't cause panic or alarm among citizens. The debate regarding concealed vs. carry has highlighted various pros and cons which are discussed below:

Pros of Concealed Carry

Following are some of the advantages of concealed carry:

- It assists in self-defense or even to defend others, in case of an attack.
- When a gun is concealed, those with malicious intent won't be aware that their prey has a means to defend themselves.
- It gives the gun owner a better chance at surviving an attack as the concealed gun provides an element of surprise for the attacker. In those few seconds of hesitation, the gun owner can save themselves and the others.



Cons of Concealed Carry

Following are some of the disadvantages of concealed carry:

- During an emergency, the concealment might hinder the deployment of firearm.
- It might become the cause of an accident as the carrier might be irresponsible in deploying, carrying, or handling the firearm, which can lead to physical harm.

Pros of Open Carry

Following are some of the advantages of open carry:

- Criminals usually conceal their guns. This indicates that whenever people witness an individual openly carrying a gun, they will realize that that person isn't a threat but are license holders.
- Open carry reduces any hindrance in deploying the gun during emergency situations as compared to when concealed carrying.
- This helps as a crime deterrent.
- Easier to carry as compared to concealed carry.



Cons of Open Carry

Following are some of the disadvantages of open carry:

- People might panic when they witness someone open carry and might alert the authorities. Due to this, the carrier might be stopped by the police official for questioning and even asked to show the license or permit, if applicable in the jurisdiction.
- It might become the cause of an accident as the carrier might be irresponsible in deploying, carrying, or handling the firemen which can lead to physical harm.
- The carrier might be targeted by the criminal.



Which Is Better Suited For You?

Open and concealed carry have been a sensitive topic for decades. In order to determine which one is more suitable for you, it is essential that you have a better understanding of both. Firstly, it depends on the gun laws and ordinances of the state you live in. Some states only permit concealed carrying while some permit only open carrying, while some have other laws with more restrictions. Following discussion provides tips and techniques about which is the best way of dealing with both concealed and open carry:

Concealed Carry

If you prefer people not knowing that you are carrying a gun with you then you must invest in a holster you are comfortable with and which has no retention devices, meaning you won't have a problem in quickly grabbing the gun in case of any emergency situation or an attack. However, this also means that anyone who already knows that you are carrying a gun can also grab it as it won't have any retention devices.

It is easy to conceal your weapon simply by wearing a jacket or a vest on top of your shirt. The best thing to ensure that someone else doesn't grab your gun is to hide it properly from the public eye. Even though a jacket or a vest isn't a strong safety option, it is a quick



and easy means of ensuring that your weapon is concealed.

Another way of concealing your gun is to carry it in your pocket. If it is a small handgun then it can easily fit in your pocket without letting the public know that you are carrying a gun. However, it is essential that the external safety is in place in order to avoid accidents. Furthermore, it is also important to make sure that it is the only thing in your pocket. Placing coins or keys in the same pocket will obstruct your gun usage. The best thing would be to get a holster to put your gun in as this will give you a much easy access. Some of the holsters have a strong grip which allows you to draw out your gun while the holster stays in the pocket.

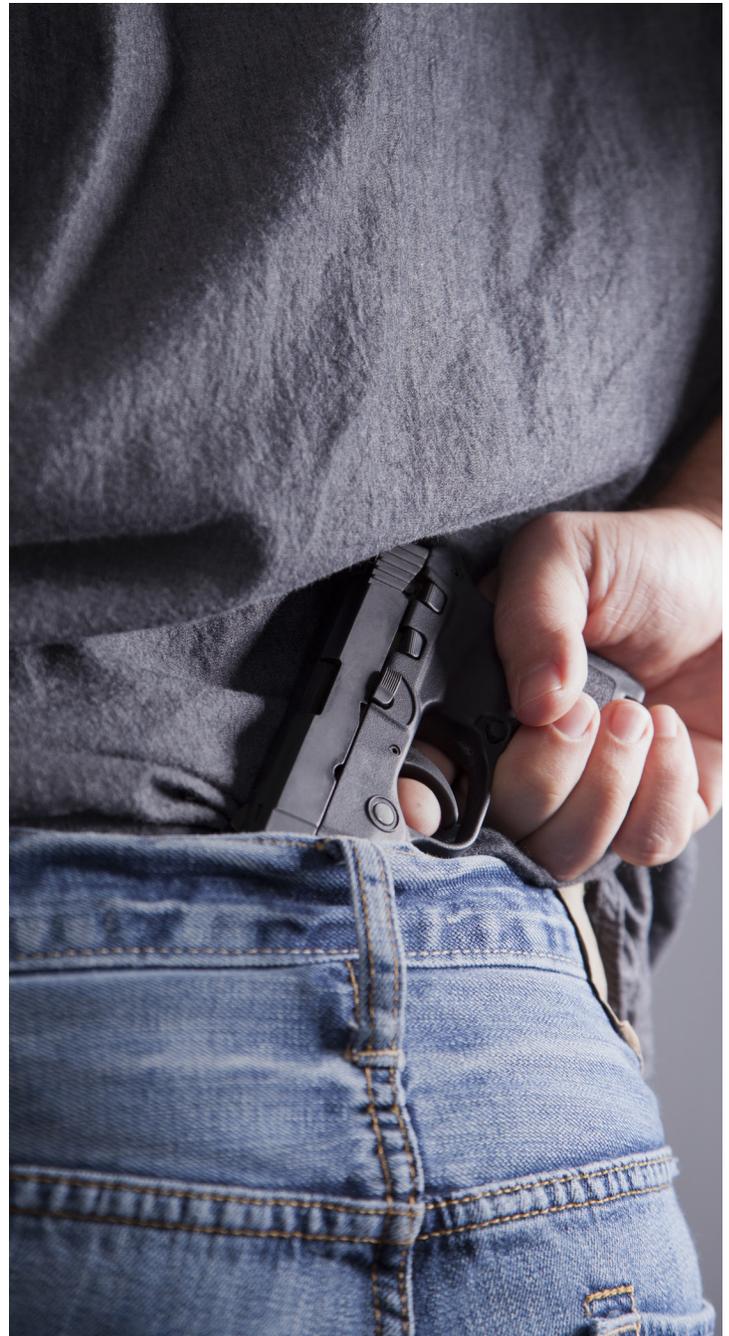
It is always wise to practice drawing out your concealed gun. Majority of the gun carriers neglect doing this and face problems during the time of an emergency. Getting training helps you in learning and understanding what to do during the time of an attack or any emergency. It will help you learn how to properly use the gun without harming yourself or others around you and help you in defending yourself and others in a better manner.

Open Carry

Open carry means that everyone around you knows that you are carrying a gun. Others can determine which gun you are carrying and where exactly is it placed. This actually makes you an easier target and some might even try to grab your gun in case of an attack. Furthermore, in case of an attack, the attacker will target you first. It is essential that you invest in a holster with a retention device. This will enhance the safety of your firearm and prevent others from using it. If you have decided to open carry, you must be prepared to get a lot of attention as people are going to be alarmed at the sight of a gun being openly displayed and might even confront you about it.

The best thing about open carry is that you might be able to carry higher power guns. One essential thing you have to be careful about is your firearm placement and posturing. If you

constantly have your hand placed on the firearm, people might take you as a threat. People would want to defend themselves against you and this might cause an accident to happen. This is why it is best to be relaxed and calm when you open carry and avoid placing your hand on the gun all the time.



Final Words

Gun control has been a long ongoing issue in America and open carry is just one aspect of the heated debate. There are numerous gun laws in different states that restrict or forbid individuals to visibly carry a gun in public.

In olden times, Americans used to openly carry handguns in public, but gradually, gun laws were introduced to discourage the usage of firearms. Numerous people and groups believe that it is time that we returned to the old concept of open carry while many believe there isn't any need for that.

Advocates of open carry seek for the normalization of carrying guns openly and typically carry guns to spread awareness about how unjust the state laws regarding open carry are. Open carry creates challenges for law enforcement agencies as they have to respond to emergency calls from alarmed citizens when they witness individuals openly carrying guns.

There is a dire need to come to a common solution and impose stricter laws and a better control system to ensure a safe open carry environment for the carriers and the individuals in close proximity.

