
CHILDREN & FIREARMS

Federal law prohibits juveniles (under age 18) from possessing a handgun or handgun ammunition except in cases of employment or military service or with parental consent.

You can face up to one year in federal prison if you sell or give a handgun or ammunition to a juvenile under circumstances other than those noted above.

You can face up to ten years in federal prison if you give a handgun or ammunition to a juvenile, knowing the juvenile will use the handgun or ammunition to commit a crime of violence.

You can face up to five years in federal prison if you possess or discharge a firearm in a school zone without a valid state permit.

FIREARMS' SAFETY

To find out about firearms' safety training in your area, call 651-396-4819 (in the metro) or 1-800-366-8917 (outside the metro). Or, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website, at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

POSSESSION IN NATIONAL PARKS

Federal law makes possession of firearms in national parks subject to the laws of the state and communities where the parks are located. This means that anyone who can legally possess firearms under federal, Minnesota, and local laws may possess those firearms in national parks. However, federal law absolutely prohibits firearms in tour boats and certain marked facilities, such as park visitor centers.

TO REPORT ILLEGAL GUN ACTIVITY, CALL 1-800-ATF-GUNS.

The United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota
600 United States Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Phone: (612) 664-5600
Fax: (612) 664-5787

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mn

FIREARMS



AND

FEDERAL LAW

FIREARMS LAWS

Numerous federal, state, and local statutes govern the purchase, possession, and carrying of firearms. While this brochure will hopefully be informative, it is not intended to be exhaustive. State and federal laws regarding firearms vary greatly, so it is imperative that you diligently research and comply with all laws that may apply to you.

FEDERAL LAW

Federal law has been violated when –

- (A) a prohibited person
- (B) possesses or receives a firearm or ammunition; AND
- (C) the firearm or ammunition was transported across a state line at any time.

If you have been convicted three or more times for violent crimes or serious drug crimes, you can face a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison as an armed career criminal if you are subsequently found in possession of a firearm or ammunition.

You can face at least five years and up to life imprisonment or death if death results from your use of a firearm in furtherance of a drug felony or a federal crime of violence.

PROHIBITED PERSONS

You can face up to ten years in federal prison if you receive or possess a firearm or ammunition and are –

- a convicted felon whose rights have not been restored;
- a fugitive from justice;
- an illegal alien or a lawfully admitted alien under a non-immigrant visa;
- a dishonorably discharged military veteran;
- an unlawful drug user;
- a person who has been judged as mentally defective or committed to a mental health institution;
- subject to a domestic restraining order; or
- have a prior conviction for domestic assault.

Even if you are not a prohibited person, but you give a gun or ammunition to someone you know or have reason to believe fits any of the above descriptions, you can face up to ten years in federal prison.

You can face up to ten years in federal prison for knowingly making false statements to federal firearms' dealers when buying firearms.

ILLEGAL FIREARMS

You can serve between five and ten years in federal prison for possession of a –

- machine gun without obtaining a tax stamp;
- short barreled shotgun without obtaining a tax stamp;
- short barreled rifle without obtaining a tax stamp;
- firearm silencer without obtaining a tax stamp;
- firearm that lacks a serial number or contains an altered or an obliterated serial number; or
- firearm or ammunition or explosive that is stolen.

It is a federal felony to be an "unlicensed" firearms' dealer, which is someone who devotes time, attention, and labor to dealing, manufacturing, importing, repairing, or pawnbrokering firearms as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective being livelihood or profit.

It is also a federal felony to be a "straw purchaser" or to sell to someone you know or have reason to believe is a "straw purchaser." A "straw purchaser" is someone who buys a firearm from a federally licensed firearms' dealer for the purpose of concealing the identity of the true and intended recipient of that firearm.
