

Weapons Carry License FAQ

Georgia Weapons Carry License FAQ

The purpose of this document is to answer some of the questions we get from citizens who are interested in applying for a Georgia Weapons Carry License (WCL).

Where can I carry my handgun?

This is the Court's most frequently asked question and it is one that cannot be legally answered either by the staff or the judge. The best way to find out the answer to this question is to begin with a review of O.C.G.A. §§16-11-125.1 through 16-11-135. You can find these code sections either online (<http://www.lexis-nexis.com/hottopics/gacode/default.asp>) or at your local library.

How much does it cost to get a WCL?

The cost to apply for a license is \$ 90.00, broken down as follows: \$35.00 application fee paid to the Court, \$55.00 fee paid to the Sheriff's Office to conduct the background check. This Court does not accept checks or debit/credit cards for these applications. Cash, money orders or certified checks are acceptable forms of payment

Do I need to go to the Sheriff's Office to get fingerprinted?

Yes, you will need to take \$ 55.00 **cash only, exact change** to the Sheriff's Office when you go. They will not make change for you. They are located at 2985 Camp Road in Jasper.

I already have a WCL and simply need to get it renewed. Do I have to go through the whole application and fingerprint process again?

Yes. In 2006 the Georgia Legislature amended O.C.G.A. §16-11-129 to require that **all** applicants, even for renewals, would need to be fingerprinted.

Where do I get a concealed firearm permit?

There is only one type of license issued by this Court, and it is called a Georgia Weapons Carry License. See O.C.G.A. §16-11-129. It has also been called, among other things, a Pistol Toter's Permit, a Carry Permit, Georgia Firearms License and a Concealed Weapon Permit.

Where do I register my guns?

It is the understanding of this Court that, in the State of Georgia, you are not required to register your firearms. Again, check with your local law enforcement agency for any local rules.

How long will it take to get my license after I apply?

The answer to this question varies significantly. Some applicants have fingerprints that are difficult to read electronically and are required to be printed a second time. If the electronic prints are not accepted, it may be necessary to submit printed cards which can take several months to be deciphered by the F.B.I. and the G.B.I.

In addition to bad prints, some applicants have criminal histories which lack dispositions, need to be interpreted or have other issues.

If there may be a delay in issuing the license, the applicant will be given notice of the issue with their application and how the issue may be resolved. Due to many variables involved with obtaining a **complete** criminal history, the staff will be unable to provide you with specifics as to when you will receive your license.

What would prevent me from receiving a WCL?

For a list of things that would render an applicant ineligible to receive a WCL, please see O.C.G.A. §§16-11-129(b) and 16-11-129(d)(4).

I was fingerprinted when I joined the United States Navy in 1978. Don't you already have my fingerprints on file?

No. All applicants must be fingerprinted.

I've applied for a WCL and have been denied due to my 15 page criminal history containing multiple felonies and drug convictions. Do I get my money back?

No.