



HOLDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
1370 MAIN STREET HOLDEN, MA 01520

BASIC HANDGUN SAFETY COURSE

I) INTRODUCTION

- A) MGL Chapter 140, §131P requires the completion of this course in order to obtain a License to Carry (LTC or Pistol Permit) or a Firearms Identification Card (FID).
- B) Those applying for an FID for Chemical Propellants Only are not required to take the course.
- C) Costs:
 - 1) LTC or FID \$100.00 (no fee if applicant is over 70 years of age)
 - 2) FID Class D (mace only) \$ 25.00 (no fee if applicant is over 70 years of age)
 - 3) BHS Class \$ 30.00
 - 4) Fingerprints \$ 10.00 (first time applicants only)
- D) Checks may be made out for the full amount, payable to the Holden Police Department

II) DEFINITIONS

- A) **Ammunition** means cartridges, cartridge cases, primers, bullets, tear gas cartridges, chemical mace, or any device which emits a liquid, gas, powder, or any other substance designed to incapacitate.
- B) **Assault Weapon** means any weapon defined by 18 USC 921.
- C) **Firearm** means any pistol, revolver, or weapon in which the barrel is less than 16 inches (18 inches for shotguns).
- D) **Large Capacity Feeding Device** means any magazine or other device that can accept more than ten (10) rounds of ammunition or more than five (5) rounds of shotgun shells.
 - 1) This description does not include those devices for .22 ammunition.
- E) **Large Capacity Weapon** means any semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, or firearm that has or can accept a large capacity feeding device, or employs a rotating cylinder that can accept more than 10 rounds in a firearm or rifle and / or more than 5 rounds in a shotgun, or an assault weapon.
- F) **Rifle** means a weapon with a barrel length of more than sixteen (16) inches with a rifled bore.
- G) **Sawed-off Shotgun** means a shotgun in which the barrel length is less than eighteen (18) inches or its overall length is less than twenty-six (26) inches.
- H) **Shotgun** means a weapon with a barrel length more than eighteen (18) inches and an overall length of more than twenty-six (26) inches.
- I) **Violent Crime** means any crime punishable by more than one (1) year imprisonment and has an element of physical force against another.

III) PERMITS PRESENTLY HELD

- A) Permits now issued will be good for six (6) years, with a ninety (90) day grace period.

IV) FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION CARD (FID)

- A) Two types:
 - 1) Class D: Allows the holder to carry Chemical Propellants only (mace or pepperspray)
 - 2) Class C: Allows the holder to carry rifles, shotguns, or ammunition
 - (a) Barrel length for a rifle must exceed sixteen (16) inches
 - (b) Barrel length for a shotgun must exceed eighteen (18) inches
- B) All persons possessing any weapon must be for a lawful purpose.
- C) Exclusions from obtaining an FID:
 - 1) Lifetime exclusion:

- (a) Conviction of a violent crime;
- (b) Conviction of trafficking in weapons;
- (c) Conviction of trafficking in drugs.
- 2) Five (5) year exclusion:
 - (a) Conviction of a felony;
 - (b) Conviction of any misdemeanor punishable by two (2) or more years;
 - (c) Conviction of any weapons and / or ammunition violation;
 - (d) Conviction of any drug offense;
 - (e) Confinement to any hospital / institution for a mental illness;
 - (f) Confinement to any institution for drug addiction or habitual drunkenness.
- 3) Other exclusions include:
 - (a) No person under 15 years of age can obtain an FID;
 - (b) No person between 15 and 18 years of age may obtain an FID unless they have parental consent;
 - (c) No alien may obtain an FID;
 - (d) No person who is currently the subject of a Restraining Order may obtain an FID;
 - (e) No person who is currently the subject of an outstanding Arrest Warrant may obtain an FID.
- 4) If the police learn of any such exclusion while the holder has a valid FID, the FID will be suspended or revoked.
- 5) A “firearm” in Massachusetts is defined as a handgun, even though you obtain a “Firearms Identification Card” to possess a rifle or shotgun.

V) LICENSE TO CARRY (LTC)

- A) Two types:
 - 1) Class B: Allows the holder to carry a rifle, shotgun, ammunition or handgun with the following conditions:
 - (a) May not possess a concealed weapon in a public place;
 - (b) May not possess a loaded weapon in a public place;
 - (c) May not possess a large capacity firearm.
 - 2) Class A: Allows the holder to carry a rifle, shotgun, ammunition or handgun with the following conditions:
 - (a) May possess a concealed weapon in a public place;
 - (b) May possess a loaded weapon in a public place;
 - (c) May possess a large capacity weapon in a public place.
- B) All persons possessing any weapon must be for a lawful purpose.
- C) Exclusions from obtaining an LTC:
 - 1) Lifetime exclusions:
 - (a) Conviction of a felony;
 - (b) Conviction of a misdemeanor punishable by two (2) or more years;
 - (c) Conviction of a violent crime;
 - (d) Conviction of any weapons and / or ammunition violation;
 - (e) Conviction of any drug offense;
 - (f) Confinement to any hospital / institution for a mental illness;
 - (g) Confinement to any institution for a drug addiction or habitual drunkenness.
 - 2) Other exclusions:
 - (a) No person under 21 years of age may obtain an LTC;
 - (b) No alien may obtain an LTC;
 - (c) No person who is currently the subject of a Restraining Order may obtain an LTC;
 - (d) No person who is currently the subject of an outstanding Arrest Warrant may obtain an LTC;
 - (e) No person who the Chief of Police determines is “unsuitable” may obtain an LTC.
 - 3) If the police learn of any such exclusion, or if the Chief of Police makes the determination that a person is unsuitable while the holder has a valid LTC, the LTC will be suspended or revoked.

VI) LOCKS

- A) Every weapon in Massachusetts must be secure from theft and / or unauthorized use.
- B) Types of locks:
 - 1) Gun safe;
 - 2) Locked cabinet;
 - 3) Locked gun case;
 - 4) Trigger lock.
- C) The penalty for failing to secure a weapon:
 - 1) For non-large capacity weapons:
 - (a) \$500 to \$5,000 fine / one (1) year imprisonment;
 - (b) If kept in a place where a person under the age of 18 has access without committing an unforeseeable trespass, not less than \$1,000 to \$10,000 and / or not less than one (1) year nor more than ten (10) years imprisonment.
 - 2) For large capacity weapons:
 - (a) \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine / one (1) to ten (10) years imprisonment;
 - (b) If kept in a place where a person under the age of 18 has access without committing an unforeseeable trespass, not less than \$5,000 to \$10,000 and / or not less than two and one-half (2½) years nor more than ten (10) years imprisonment.
- D) Any violation of the statute may be used as evidence of wanton and reckless conduct, thereby allowing a charge of manslaughter to be brought.
- E) Any firearm or large capacity weapon must be sold with a safety device. If not, it shall be deemed defective and shall be deemed a breach of warranty.
- F) Types of weapons not requiring locks:
 - 1) Matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap or similar type of ignition system manufactured prior to 1900;
 - 2) Any replica not designed to use rimfire or center fire ammunition.

VII) COVERT WEAPONS

- A) No person shall sell, offer for sale, transfer or possess any weapon capable of discharging a bullet or shot that:
 - 1) Does not resemble a handgun, rifle, or shotgun;
 - 2) Is not detectable by X-ray machines or metal detectors.
- B) Punishment for violation of statute:
 - 1) First offense not less than \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine and / or not less than one (1) year to ten (10) years imprisonment;
 - 2) Second offense not less than \$5,000 or \$15,000 fine and / or not less than five (5) to fifteen (15) years imprisonment.

VIII) LOADED / UNLOADED WEAPONS

- A) No person intoxicated by drugs or alcohol may possess a loaded firearm.
 - 1) Penalty for violation is up to \$5,000 fine and / or two and one-half (2½) years of imprisonment.
- B) No person may carry a rifle or shotgun on any public way that has cartridges or shells in either the magazine or chamber unless such person is engaged in hunting and has a valid FID or LTC and hunting license.
 - 1) Penalty for violation:
 - (a) Non-large capacity: Not less than \$500 to \$5,000 fine and / or up to two (2) years imprisonment;
 - (b) Large capacity: Not less than \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine and / or not less than one (1) to ten (10) years imprisonment.
- C) No person may carry an unloaded rifle or shotgun on a public way unless such person is engaged in hunting, has a valid FID or LTC and a hunting license or unless said weapon is enclosed in a case.

- 1) Penalty for violation:
 - (a) Non-large capacity: Not less than \$100 to \$1,000 fine;
 - (b) Large capacity: Not less than \$1,000 to \$10,000 fine and / or not less than one (1) to ten (10) years imprisonment.

IX) TARGETS

- A) A Class A license may be granted to a club with an on-site shooting range or gallery, and such club shall not permit shooting at targets that depict human figures, human effigies, human silhouettes, or human images.
- B) Law enforcement personnel are exempt.
- C) Penalty for violation not less than \$500 to \$1,000 fine and / or not less than six (6) months to two and one-half (2½) years imprisonment.