

### Purchasing a gun in Pennsylvania

1. On the date of the sale, the seller must obtain from the potential buyer a completed application/record of sale in triplicate. Including information such as, the individual's name, address, birthdate, gender, race, physical description and Social Security number, the date of the application and the caliber, length of barrel, make, model and manufacturer's number of the firearm to be purchased or transferred<sup>1</sup>
  - a. The original is to be sent to the state police within 14 days of the sale.
  - b. A copy is to be held by the seller for a period of 20 years.
  - c. A copy is to be provided to the potential buyer.
2. The potential buyer must then provide some form of photo identification or a valid-without-photo driver's license or a combination of documents, as prescribed by the Pennsylvania State Police, containing the applicant's name, address, date of birth and the signature of the applicant.<sup>2</sup>
3. Then, the seller shall contact the Pennsylvania State Police in order to conduct a criminal history, juvenile delinquency history and a mental health record check.<sup>3</sup>
  - a. The potential buyer will be charged a fee, not to exceed \$2.00, for the costs of the check.
  - b. Should there be an electronic failure, scheduled computer downtime or similar event beyond the control of the Pennsylvania State Police for 48 hours or more, a seller may complete a transaction without a background check<sup>4</sup>
4. If approved, the potential buyer will be issued a unique approval number for that inquiry from the Pennsylvania State Police and recorded the date and the number on the application/record of sale form. This information will be contained on the receipt.<sup>5</sup>
5. If the Pennsylvania State Police cannot determine whether a misdemeanor is or is not related to an act of domestic violence, the Pennsylvania State Police shall issue a temporary delay of the approval of the purchase or transfer. This temporary delay allows the Pennsylvania State Police to conduct an investigation into the misdemeanor. No firearm may be transferred by the dealer to the purchaser who is the subject of the investigation during the temporary delay.<sup>6</sup>
6. If it is found through the criminal history, juvenile delinquency history and mental health record check that the potential buyer comes under one of the enumerated prohibitions of 18 Pa.C.S. § 6105, the sale cannot be completed.<sup>7</sup>

### Private sale in Pennsylvania

1. For an individual who is not a licensed importer, manufacturer or dealer and who desires to sell or transfer a firearm to another unlicensed person shall do so only upon the place

---

<sup>1</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. § 6111\(b\)\(1\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. § 6111\(b\)\(2\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. § 6111\(b\)\(3\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. § 6111.1\(b\)\(2\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. §§ 6111\(b\)\(4\)-\(5\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. § 6111.1\(b\)\(7\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. § 6105](#)

of business of a licensed importer, manufacturer, dealer or county sheriff's office. The licensed importer, manufacturer, dealer or county sheriff will then complete the steps laid out above.

2. However, this provision only applies to pistols or revolvers with a barrel length of less than 15 inches, any shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, any rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or any firearm with an overall length of less than 26 inches.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. §§ 6111\(c\), 6111\(f\)\(2\)](#)

The addition of Permit to Purchase in Pennsylvania's framework

1. Prior to the purchase or transfer of a firearm (or, possibly, ammunition)<sup>9</sup>, a prospective buyer or recipient would have to apply for a license from an Issuing Authority
  - a. The application would have the same requirements and restrictions as laid out in the current process
    - i. Applicant must be 18 years of age
    - ii. A background check would be run by the Issuing Authority
    - iii. An individual must be compliant with 18 Pa.C.S. § 6105<sup>10</sup>
  - b. Additional fees or requirements, such as gun safety course attendance, could be mandated, could be implemented<sup>11</sup>
  - c. The Issuing Authority would have a statutorily established timeframe for accepting or denying a request. The timeframe for the Issuing Authority's decision in other states has been as little as three days or as much as three months<sup>12 13</sup>
  - d. Upon a denial of a license, the Issuing Authority would provide some form of appeals process to allow an individual to contest a denial<sup>14</sup>
2. The license could be valid for a specific duration of time, for the purchase of a set amount of firearms<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> [Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-38n](#)

<sup>10</sup> [18 Pa.C.S. § 6105](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 134-2](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 69-2405](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-36g](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 69-2406](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 134-2\(e\)](#)