

CT Pistol Permit Application Process and Related Statutes

Connecticut State Permit to Carry Pistols and Revolvers

Reviewed as of September 16, 2026. Statutes, fees, hours, and administrative information may change; students should verify current requirements before relying on this material.

Connecticut's permit process is a two-step process, you first apply to your local police department, or, the chief of police of a law enforcement unit of any federally recognized Native American tribe within the borders of the state as referenced in subsection (c) of section 29-28, or, where there is no chief of police, to the chief executive officer, as defined in section 7-193, of the municipality, as defined in section 7-148, or, if designated by such chief executive officer, the resident state trooper serving such municipality or a state police officer of the state police troop having jurisdiction over such municipality, for a 60-Day Temporary State Permit to Carry Pistols and Revolvers, they will conduct state and federal background checks and ascertain your suitability to receive a permit.

If they approve your application and issue a Temporary State Permit you then need to take your temporary permit and appear at one of the State Police Facilities that has a photo licensing center to get your picture taken and receive your "permanent" five-year permit.

Follow the steps below to submit your application.

Pick up your application packet. A lot of Police Departments have it available online. Per CGS 29-28a you will pick up this form from your local police department, if the town you live in does not have a local police department you will get the application from the issuing authority in the town that you reside in. When you appear in person the statute states you must be given an application immediately.

Along with the permit application you will receive an instruction sheet with all the instructions to obtain your temporary permit. This instruction sheet should tell you how to submit your application and when you will receive the Service Code that is unique to your town's Police Department (some departments will not provide it until you have made your fingerprinting appointment. They will also supply you with a web address that you will need to visit and set up an account on (this link is on our student resource page).

This is part of the background check process. You will use the Service Code you were given to set up an account on the web site, you will supply all the information required for your background check and fingerprint cards.

You will pay for the background checks at this time, as of September 16, 2026, the fees are \$75 for the state background check and \$12 for the FBI background check, they will also charge you a \$2.95 convenience fee for a total of \$89.95.

Once you're finished you will be emailed a bar code that you will need to present to the police department when you go in to submit your application and to be fingerprinted. They will scan it and all your information will prepopulate into their system.

You will also receive 2 forms from the Department of Justice that you will need to sign to allow the town and state to conduct your background checks.

Fill out the application completely and accurately and then have it notarized (don't sign it until you are in front of the notary), sign the Department of Justice forms to allow the town and state to conduct background checks.

Gather copies of the following documents to be submitted with your complete application:

- * Proof of legal residence in the US via a Certified US Birth Certificate, US Passport or if applying as a legal Resident Alien your Immigration documentation.
- * A copy of the Certificate you received for completing an approved class in handgun safety.

- * The DESPP supplemental Certificate of Completion.

- * If you have been discharged from the military you will also need to submit a copy of your DD-214

- * Don't forget to print and include the bar code you received when you paid for your background checks.

- * You will need to submit a payment of \$70 for your Temp Permit.

Requests from the issuing authority for any extra documentation like letters of reference, waiver forms, passport photos or any other information not shown above have been deemed to be not required by a Declaratory Ruling made by the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners. A copy of this ruling can be found on the Board's website.

If you wish to challenge any such requests you may simply have to refuse to provide it to the issuing authority and explain why, however, if they stand by their request and refuse to process your application without it, you can file for an appeal before the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners. See the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners' Section of this supplement for further information.

Once you have all the above required documents and payments ready, you need to submit it all to the local issuing authority, usually when you submit your application you will be fingerprinted at the local police station, absent a local police department the issuing authority will probably just turn you over to the Resident Trooper or nearest state police barracks for the rest of the permit processing.

Some departments will let you drop off your application anytime; others have open hours for application acceptance (like Tuesdays and Thursdays, Noon to 7:00PM) and still others will have you make an appointment, check your instruction sheet to see how your town handles it and get down there, get fingerprinted and submit that application.

Once the issuing authority accepts your application, they are required by state statute to process it accordingly. There are two statutes regarding the issuance or denial time frames that the issuing authority needs to abide by.

CGS 29-28a(b)(1) says in part, (1) The local permitting authority shall, not later than eight weeks after a sufficient application for a temporary state permit has been made, inform the applicant that such applicant's request for a temporary state permit has been approved or denied, and if denied, supply to the applicant a detailed written reason for such denial. The local permitting authority shall forward a copy of the application indicating approval or denial of the temporary state permit to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. If the local permitting authority has denied the application for a temporary state permit, no state permit may be issued. If the local permitting authority has failed to expressly deny the application or issue a temporary state permit during the eight-week period following the submission of such application, upon presentation by the applicant of an affidavit attesting to such failure to expressly deny the application at least sixteen weeks after submission of such application, the commissioner shall accept such affidavit in lieu of a temporary state permit and notify the local permitting authority immediately of the receipt of such affidavit. The commissioner shall, not later than eight weeks after receiving an application indicating approval from the local permitting authority, or an affidavit attesting to a failure to expressly deny the application, inform the applicant in detailed writing that the applicant's application for a state permit has been approved or denied, or that the results of the national criminal history records check have not been received. If grounds for denial become known after a temporary state permit has been obtained, the temporary state permit shall be immediately revoked pursuant to section 29-32. The failure of the local permitting authority to complete the review of an application for a temporary state permit shall not be grounds for the commissioner to deny issuance of a state permit.

CGS 29-29(c) says in part, "Upon receipt of the results of such national criminal history records check, the commissioner shall send a copy of the results of such national criminal history records check to the local permitting authority, which shall inform the applicant and render a decision on the application within one week of the receipt of such results."

If your application for a permit is delayed beyond the time frames set in the statutes or you are denied for any other reason you have the right to file an appeal with the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners within 90 days of such action. See the Board of Firearm Permit Examiners' Section of this supplement for further information.

Sec. 29-30(e). No fee or portion of any fee paid under the provisions of this section for issuance or renewal of a state permit shall be refundable except if (1) such permit for which the fee or portion was paid was not issued or renewed, or (2) the local permitting authority fails to discharge any obligation applicable to such local permitting authority pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 29-28a or subsection (b) or (c) of section 29-29 within the applicable time limits established under said subdivision or subsections, in which case the local permitting authority shall refund seventy dollars to the applicant. A refund issued pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not alleviate the local permitting authority from discharging any obligation specified in said subdivision or subsections after such applicable time limits. The portion of the fee expended on the national criminal history records check for any such permit that was not issued or renewed shall not be refunded.

When the town approves your application and issues the 60 Day Temporary State Permit you need to take the temporary permit, along with the same proof of legal residence in the US that you provided the issuing authority (birth certificate, US Passport or immigration documentation) and another payment of \$70 in the form of a check or exact change in cash to one of the State Police facilities that does the photo licensing for the "permanent" five-year permit.

You can do that at any of the following three locations:

CT STATE POLICE HQ – 1111 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:30AM-4:15PM

Temporarily Closed Until Further Notice - TROOP E MONTVILLE – I-395 NORTH, MONTVILLE, CT 06382

TROOP G BRIDGEPORT – 149 PROSPECT ST, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY: 8:00AM-12:00PM AND 12:30PM-4:15PM.
THURSDAY: 10:30AM-2:00PM AND 2:30PM-6:45PM.

When you get to one of the above locations you will be required to fill out the final application form while waiting in line. Present that at the window with your temporary permit, proof you are legally in the US and the \$70 payment by exact change cash or check. They will take your photo, and your permit will be issued.