

CT Firearm Possession and Use Laws

Relevant Connecticut General Statutes

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

CGS Sec. 29-35. Carrying of pistol or revolver without permit prohibited. Knowingly carrying any firearm with intent to display such firearm prohibited. Exceptions.

(a)(1) No person shall carry any pistol or revolver upon such person's person, except when such person is within such person's dwelling house, on land leased or owned by such person or within the place of business of such person, without a permit to carry the same issued as provided in section 29-28.

(2) No person shall knowingly carry any firearm with intent to display such firearm, except when such person is within such person's dwelling house, on land leased, owned or otherwise possessed by such person or within the place of business of such person, or such person is engaged in firearm training or bona fide hunting activity, or such person has been explicitly permitted by another person to carry such firearm with intent to display such firearm while within such other person's dwelling house, on land leased, owned or otherwise possessed by such other person, or within the place of business of such other person. For the purposes of this subdivision, a person shall not be deemed to be carrying a firearm with intent to display such firearm if such person has taken reasonable measures to conceal the fact that such person is carrying a firearm. Neither a fleeting glimpse of a firearm nor an imprint of a firearm through such person's clothing shall constitute a violation of this subdivision. If a person displays a firearm temporarily while engaged in self-defense or other conduct that is otherwise lawful, such display shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any (A) security guard or other person employed to perform the duties of protecting public or private property while in the performance of such duties or traveling to or from such duties, (B) person carrying a firearm as a necessary part of participation in an honor guard or an historic reenactment, or (C) bail enforcement agent licensed under sections 29-152f to 29-152i, inclusive.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the carrying of any firearm by any: (A) Parole officer or peace officer of this state; (B) parole officer or peace officer of any other state while engaged in the pursuit of official duties; (C) Department of Motor Vehicles inspector appointed under section 14-8 and certified pursuant to section 7-294d; (D) federal marshal or federal law enforcement agent; (E) member of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 27-103, or of the state, as defined in section 27-2, when on duty or going to or from duty; (F) member of any military organization when on parade or when going to or from any place of assembly; (G) person transporting or inspecting a firearm as merchandise; (H) person transporting a firearm contained in the package in which such firearm was originally wrapped at the time of sale and while transporting the same from the place of sale to the purchaser's residence or place of business; (I) person transporting a firearm as part of the process of removing such person's household goods or effects from one place to another; (J) person transporting a firearm from such person's place of residence or business to a place or person where or by whom such firearm is to be repaired or while returning to such person's place of residence or business after the same has been repaired; (K) person transporting a firearm in or through the state for the purpose of taking part in competitions, taking part in firearm training, repairing such firearm or attending any meeting or exhibition of an organized collectors' group if such person is a bona fide resident of the United States and is permitted to possess and carry a firearm in the state or subdivision of the United States in which such person resides; (L) person transporting a firearm to and from a testing range at the request of the issuing authority; or (M) person transporting an antique pistol or revolver, as defined in section 29-33.

(4) For the purposes of this subsection, "firearm training" means firearm training at a firing range, training facility or fish and game club or sporting club, and "transporting a firearm" means transporting a firearm that is unloaded and, if such firearm is being transported in a motor vehicle, is not readily accessible or directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the vehicle or, if such firearm is being transported in a motor vehicle that does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, such firearm shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the carrying of a firearm during firearm training or repair.

(b) The holder of a permit issued pursuant to section 29-28 shall carry such permit upon one's person while carrying such pistol or revolver. Such holder shall present his or her permit upon the request of a law enforcement officer who has reasonable suspicion of a crime for purposes of verification of the validity of the

permit or identification of the holder, provided such holder is carrying a pistol or revolver that is observed by such law enforcement officer.

(c) Not later than February 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-294a, shall prepare and submit a report to the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut concerning any stops conducted on suspicion of a violation of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section during the preceding calendar year, except that the initial report shall be based on the fifteen months preceding January 1, 2025. Such report shall be submitted electronically using a standardized method and form disseminated jointly by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. The standardized method and form shall allow compilation of statistics on each incident, including, but not limited to, the race and gender of the person stopped, provided the identification of such characteristics shall be based on the observation and perception of the police officer. The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council may revise the standardized method and form and disseminate such revisions to law enforcement units. Each law enforcement unit shall, prior to submission of any such report pursuant to this subsection, redact any information from such report that may identify a minor, witness or victim.

(d) The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut shall, within available appropriations, review the incidents reported pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Not later than December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the institute shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, the results of any such review, including any recommendations, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, public safety and municipalities.

CGS Sec. 29-37. Penalties.

(a) Any person violating any provision of section 29-28 or 29-31 shall be guilty of a class E felony, and any pistol or revolver found in the possession of any person in violation of any of said provisions shall be forfeited.

(b) Any person violating any provision of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 29-35 shall be guilty of a class D felony, and, in the absence of any mitigating circumstances as determined by the court, one year of the sentence imposed may not be suspended or reduced by the court. The court shall specifically state the mitigating circumstances, or the absence thereof, in writing for the record. Any pistol or revolver found in the possession of any person in violation of any provision of subsection (a) of section 29-35 shall be forfeited.

(c) Any person violating any provision of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 29-35 shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and a class A misdemeanor for any subsequent offense. The court may order suspension of prosecution in addition to any other diversionary programs available to the defendant, if the court finds that a violation of said subdivision is not of a serious nature and that the person charged with such violation (1) will probably not offend in the future, (2) has not previously been convicted of a violation of this section, and (3) has not previously had a prosecution under this section suspended pursuant to this subsection. The court shall not order suspension of prosecution unless the accused person has acknowledged that he or she understands the consequences of the suspension of prosecution. Any person for whom prosecution is suspended shall agree to the tolling of any statute of limitations with respect to such violation and to a waiver of his or her right to a speedy trial. Such person shall appear in court and shall be released to the supervision of the Court Support Services Division for such period, not exceeding two years, and under such conditions as the court shall order. If the person refuses to accept, or, having accepted, violates such conditions, the court shall terminate the suspension of prosecution and the case shall be brought to trial. If such person satisfactorily completes such person's period of probation, he or she may apply for dismissal of the charges against such person and the court, on finding such satisfactory completion, shall dismiss such charges. If the person does not apply for dismissal of the charges against such person after satisfactorily completing such person's period of probation, the court, upon receipt of a report submitted by the Court Support Services Division that the person satisfactorily completed such person's period of probation, may on its own motion make a finding of such satisfactory completion and dismiss such charges. Upon dismissal, all records of such charges shall be erased pursuant to section 54-142a. An order of the court denying a motion to dismiss the charges against a person who has completed such person's period of probation or terminating the participation of a defendant in such program shall be a final judgment for purposes of appeal.

(d) Any person violating any provision of subsection (b) of section 29-35 shall have committed an infraction and shall be fined thirty-five dollars.

CGS Sec. 53-203. Unlawful discharge of firearms.

(a) Any person who intentionally, negligently or carelessly discharges any firearm in such a manner as to be likely to cause bodily injury or death to persons or domestic animals, or the wanton destruction of property, shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not be construed to prohibit the intentional discharge of a firearm for the purpose of lawful self-defense or lawful defense of another person.

CGS Sec. 53-206d. Carrying a firearm or hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug prohibited.

(a)(1) No person shall carry a pistol, revolver, machine gun, shotgun, rifle or other firearm, which is loaded and from which a shot may be discharged, upon his person (A) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, or (B) while the ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person is eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this subsection shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

(b)(1) No person shall engage in hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both. A person shall be deemed under the influence when at the time of the alleged offense the person (A) is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, or both, or (B) has an elevated blood alcohol content. For the purposes of this subdivision, "elevated blood alcohol content" means (i) a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight, or (ii) if such person is under twenty-one years of age, a ratio of alcohol in the blood of such person that is two-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol, by weight.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this subsection shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(3) Enforcement officers of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection are empowered to arrest for a violation of the provisions of this subsection.

CGS Sec. 53-202g. Report of loss or theft of assault weapon or other firearm. Penalty.

(a) Any person who lawfully possesses an assault weapon under sections 53-202a to 53-202k, inclusive, or a firearm, as defined in section 53a-3, that is lost or stolen from such person shall report the loss or theft to the organized local police department for the town in which the loss or theft occurred or, if such town does not have an organized local police department, to the state police troop having jurisdiction for such town within seventy-two hours of when such person discovered or should have discovered the loss or theft. Such department or troop shall forthwith forward a copy of such report to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the loss or theft of an antique firearm as defined in section 29-37a.

(b) Any person who fails to make a report required by subsection (a) of this section, within the prescribed time period shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor for a first offense and be guilty of a class C felony for any subsequent offense, except that, if such person intentionally fails to make such report within the prescribed time period, such person shall be guilty of a class B felony. Any person who violates subsection (a) of this section for the first offense shall not lose such person's right to hold or obtain any firearm permit under the general statutes.