

Gun Permits

The process of possessing, purchasing or transporting a handgun in the State of Michigan is a carefully regulated process designed to ensure that only those persons who are eligible may do so. The State has delegated the responsibility to local law enforcement agencies to screen applicants and process requests to purchase a handgun.

Michigan law requires that a person must be a minimum of 18 years of age to purchase a handgun from a private party, at least 21 years of age to purchase a handgun from a licensed dealer, be a citizen of the United States or a resident legal alien, is not under an order of involuntary commitment due to a mental illness or have been adjudged legally incapacitated, and not have a felony criminal history record. A computer background check is conducted with a State of Michigan Automated Pistol Registration System (APRS) which checks for a criminal history and assigns a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) number that tracks that handgun purchase.

A person desiring to purchase a handgun must first go to their local law enforcement agency and present a valid Michigan driver's license or State ID card to verify your identity and your current address. After determining that the person lives in that community, the citizen will be administered a basic pistol safety questionnaire. This safety questionnaire contains true/false questions that will test you on critical pistol safety knowledge. A passing score requires that an applicant must score at least 11 of the 15 questions correctly. If you do not score the minimum required score the first time, you are allowed to take it once more; however, no more than two safety questionnaires shall be administered to the same person the same day. After successfully completing the safety questionnaire and background investigation, a four-part purchase permit is completed and issued to the individual. The last step on the purchase permit process is signing all four parts of the permit, and having your signature notarized. The notary fee is \$5.00.

Once the pistol purchase permit process is completed, the applicant has ten business days to purchase the pistol. The seller of the handgun completes the purchase permit with the make, model and serial number of the handgun that they are selling. The seller keeps one of the four parts of the purchase permit as proof of the sale and the purchaser keeps one. The remaining two parts of the permit are brought to the Police Department for registration. (**NOTE: Do not bring pistol to the Police Department.**) As an additional benefit, the Kentwood Police Department is pleased to distribute handgun trigger locks free of charge upon request.

If you have any questions regarding the purchase or possession of a handgun, please contact the Kentwood Police Department Records Bureau Supervisor at (616) 698-6580.