

Ohio's Concealed Carry Training

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The Attorney General's Office recommends consumers carefully evaluate training programs. Course instructors are advised to consult counsel to determine if their course meets the requirements of the law (HB12) to ensure that consumers receive what they need for qualified training. Instructors should advise their county sheriffs as to the content of their classes in order to ensure that certifications are accepted.

Before paying for training, consumers should:

- Verify the person teaching the class is qualified to teach.
- Confirm the instructor knows the requirements of the law.
- Be certain the instructor will provide you with the Attorney General's publication.
- Verify whether a refund or additional training may be available if a county sheriff determines the course was incomplete when you apply.

County sheriffs are responsible for verification of competency certification before issuing a concealed handgun license. The concealed carry law establishes the methods of acceptable training including competency certification of at least 10 hours of training in the following matters:

- The ability to name, explain and demonstrate the rules for safe handling of a handgun and proper storage practices for handguns and ammunition;
- The ability to demonstrate and explain how to handle ammunition in a safe manner;
- The ability to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to shoot a handgun in a safe manner;
- Gun handling training.

Programs must:

- Have a total of 12 hours of training which includes two hours of live-fire training;
- Provide students with a copy of the publication prepared by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) and the Attorney General regarding firearm law, dispute resolution and use of deadly force;
- Have a competency examination that includes a written section on the ability to name and explain the rules for the safe handling of a handgun and proper storage practices for handguns and ammunition as well as a physical demonstration of competency on handgun usage and rules for safe handling and storage of a handgun, and a physical demonstration of the attitude necessary to shoot a handgun in a safe manner.

Competency certification under the law must take place within three years of application and include the following forms:

- ? A certificate of completion of a firearms safety course that was offered by or under the auspices of the National Rifle Association (NRA) which contains the educational requirements listed above;
- ? A certificate of completion of a class that was open to the public that utilized NRA or OPOTC-approved instructors or approved instructors of another state, and that was offered under a law enforcement agency of the United States, the state of Ohio or another state, a college or firearms training school that contains the educational requirements listed above;
- ? A certificate of completion of a state, county, municipal or Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) peace officer training school that is approved by the executive director of OPOTC that complies with the law's training requirements and contains the educational requirements listed above;
- ? A document that shows the applicant is an active or reserve member of the armed forces, was honorably discharged, is a retired highway patrol trooper, is a retired peace officer or federal law enforcement officer and that, through the position, acquired experience with handguns or other firearms and the experience was equivalent to the educational requirements described above;
- ? A certificate of completion of a class not otherwise described that was conducted by an instructor who was certified by an official or entity of the state, another state or the United States government or the NRA that complies with the educational requirements described above;
- ? An affidavit from the instructor that attests to the applicant's completion of a course that satisfied the educational requirements described above.

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