

How long is the Sheriff's Office free CCW class?

For new applicants the class can be no less than 16 hours, Penal Code 26165(a), but can go longer if there are a lot of students and/or discussion. Class begins at 9:00 at the Sun Mountain Gun Club, typically on the second Saturday of every month.

Who can take the free CCW class offered by the Sheriff's Office?

The free class is offered to initial applicants only, not for renewals. Madera County Sheriff's Office employees or volunteers may also take the free class for renewal. You must register to attend the class prior to the date of the class. Call the Madera Office at 559-675-7770 or the Oakhurst Substation at 559-642-3201 for details and to sign up. Class size is limited to 20 students.

How much ammunition do I need to bring to the Sheriff's Office class?

It is best to bring a box of 50 rounds per handgun. The basic qualification course is 30 rounds, however, It is good to have some extra ammunition in case the student needs to shoot again.

How many handguns can I put on my permit?

You may list up to five handguns on your CCW. Pursuant to Penal Code 26155(a)(3), you must qualify with each handgun you want listed on the permit.

How can I add another gun to my permit after it is issued?

Pursuant to Penal Code 26155(a)(3), you must qualify with each handgun you want listed on the permit. Sheriff's Firearms Instructors are at the range at least four times a month, so arrangements can be made to meet an Instructor at the range to qualify with a new handgun (free of charge). Call the Sheriff's Office at 559-675-7770 or the Oakhurst Substation at 559-642-3201 to sign up for the course. You may also qualify with a new handgun with any of the approved instructors, but they may charge for this.

Do the handguns on my permit need to be registered to me?

Yes. The handgun(s) on your permit needs to be registered to you; handguns registered to your spouse or another family member, or friend cannot be put on your permit. California has required "ownership records" for handguns since 1986. If you purchased the handgun before 1986 you can file a voluntary ownership record with DOJ or have the handgun recorded into your name at an FFL (Federal Firearms Licensee) through the DROS (Dealer Record Of Sale) process. Some FFLs will not do this, but many will, the FFL will charge a fee for this transaction.

Does my handgun have to be on the California approved "safe gun" list if I want to put it on my CCW?

No.

Can I carry high-capacity magazines in my CCW handgun?

As long as you had the magazines legally in California before January 1, 2020, they are legal to possess, and you can carry them with their full capacity in your CCW handgun. "High-capacity magazines" (more than 10 rounds) have been generally illegal to obtain in California since January 1, 2020.

I have a pistol that has two slide assemblies in different calibers, can I use either caliber when I carry the pistol?

Yes, just list both calibers on the CCW (such as: 9mm/.40).

Are there any caliber restrictions for handguns on the CCW?

Generally, there are not, any common caliber should be fine, all handguns must be checked and

approved by the Instructor though.

What is the minimal standard for the Good Cause Statement?

Penal Code Section 26150 still contains a requirement that an applicant demonstrate that “good cause” exists for the issuance of a CCW license, however, the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, held that New York’s similar “proper cause requirement was unconstitutional. Therefore, pursuant to *Bruen*, we will not enforce the “good cause” requirement and will not require an applicant to demonstrate “good cause” to qualify for a CCW license.

How long do I have after taking the initial CCW class to turn in the application and begin the process?

The application package must be turned in within six months after taking the class and qualifying.

How do I renew my permit?

The CCW permit must be renewed every two years for most people (Judges must renew every 3 years and Reserve Peace Officers must renew every 4 years). You must take a renewal class from one of the Department approved instructors and present the certificate of completion to the Sheriff’s Office. Processing of CCW renewals are completed by appointment. The Department does not send reminders, so CCW holders need to pay attention to their expiration date and make sure they take the renewal class and get an appointment for the renewal before the permit expires. There is a six-month window from expiration, if you go past six months, you will have to start the process over again; also, once the permit has expired you cannot legally carry your handgun per the CCW until it is renewed.

If my application is denied, can I appeal the decision?

Yes, you can make an appointment and speak with a Sheriff’s Commander about the circumstances surrounding the denial. Occasionally applicants will be called in for an interview to clarify information in the application before a decision is made. Most denials are due to criminal convictions and not answering the questions on the application truthfully.

If my application is denied, can I get a refund of the \$105 initial fee?

No, this fee is for processing the application and the DOJ background clearance. However, the additional \$44 fee will not be charged though.

If I move, do I have to update my CCW information?

Yes, you need to notify the Sheriff’s Office if you have a change of address. DMV also requires that you notify them of a change of address for your driver’s license within 10 days. If you are moving out of Madera County, your Madera County CCW will remain valid for 90 days and you must apply for a new CCW in the jurisdiction where you are moving.

If I get arrested after my CCW has been issued, will it be revoked?

Yes, an arrest for a criminal offense will cause revocation of the permit in most cases. There is an appeal process. You can make an appointment to speak with a Sheriff’s Commander.