

DUPLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE A PISTOL PURCHASE PERMIT

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation in this state to sell, give away, transfer, purchase or receive any handgun unless a permit has been obtained.

1. The applicant must be a **resident in the county** where the permit to purchase application is made. The only exception is a nonresident may apply if the purpose of the permit is for collecting.
2. The applicant must be at least **18 years of age** to receive a pistol purchase permit. The applicant must be **21 years of age**, however, to purchase a handgun from a federally licensed firearms dealer.
3. The applicant may seek the permit for protection of the home, business, person, family, property, or for target shooting, collecting, or hunting.
4. The Sheriff will conduct a criminal background check on the applicant to include a National Instant Check System (NICS) inquiry and an Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) inquiry.
5. The Sheriff must believe that the applicant is of good moral character.
6. Each applicant for a license or permit shall be informed by the sheriff within **14 days** of the date of the application whether the license or permit will be granted or denied and, if granted, the license or permit shall be immediately issued to the applicant.
7. If the Sheriff is not fully satisfied, the Sheriff may, for good cause shown, decline to issue the permit and shall provide to the applicant within seven days of the refusal, a written statement of the reason(s) for the refusal. An appeal from the refusal shall lie by way of petition to the chief judge of the superior court for the district in which the application was filed. The determination by the court, on appeal, shall be upon the facts, the law, and the reasonableness of the sheriff's refusal, and shall be final.
8. Upon receipt of the application, there is a **\$5.00** fee for each permit requested. **NO REFUNDS** will be given if the application is denied for cause or if the applicant does not currently reside in Duplin County.
9. Once issued, the permit to purchase will be valid for **5 years** from the date of issuance. There is no limit as to the number of permits the applicant may obtain, however, additional permits must be obtained at the same time as the initial permit. Subsequent permits require a new application and fee(s.)
10. The applicant must present a current photo identification card, issued by a governmental authority. Proof of residency may be in the form of a NC Drivers' License or ID, a Military ID or a Resident Alien card along with a current utility bill.
11. The sheriff shall revoke any permit upon the occurrence of any event or condition subsequent to the issuance of the permit, or the applicant's subsequent inability to meet a requirement under NCGS Article 52A, which would have resulted in a denial of the application submitted to obtain the permit if the event, condition, or the applicant's current inability to meet a statutory requirement had existed at the time of the application and prior to the issuance of the permit.