

Minnesota Handgun Carry Permit Class – Closing Notes

- You have completed a 6-hour class providing you with the minimum information about Minnesota law and what you need to apply for a handgun carry permit in Minnesota – It was *not* a personal-defense training course. Recognize that you have a lot more to learn if you want to be able to successfully protect & defend yourself from criminal attack.
- Crime prevention is a significant element in personal protection. Good and inexpensive books on the subject are “[NRA Guide to the Basics of Personal Protection in the Home](#)”, and “[NRA Guide to Personal Protection Outside the Home](#),” www.nra.org, Training Dept., Education & Training Division, National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- To get a MN state carry permit application, go to <http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/bca.html> and scroll down to the Permit to Carry a Pistol web page link. The form is in Adobe (pdf) format. There’s also FAQ and other information, such as reciprocity with other states. Applications are also available at your sheriff’s department, and through a link at www.force-options.com, and are much like Permit to Purchase applications. They take less than 15 minutes to fill out. Remember to take your check, original training certificate, and ID with you.
- If you are uncertain whether you are eligible for a permit to carry, apply for a ‘Permit to Acquire a Handgun’ at your local Police Department. If that *free* permit is denied, you know your permit to carry will probably be denied.
- Go to www.handgunlaw.us for links to the laws in other states, and to see if that state recognizes the Minnesota Permit to Carry. If that state does allow carry using a MN permit, you will be obligated to know and obey the laws of that state if you carry there.
- Learn more, practice a lot. Practice does not make perfect, *perfect* practice makes perfect. Shoot as fast as you can and still hit an 8½ x11” target or 9” paper plate at 7 yards. That’s ‘combat accuracy.’
- Avoid, Disengage, Retreat
- Even though you may obtain a carry permit, you are not *obligated* to carry a pistol.
- You may carry more than one handgun, of any caliber, and it doesn’t have to be concealed (although concealment is a preferred tactic).
- You can use a firearm to defend yourself against a real and immediate lethal force threat. In these instances, you have to be able to testify in court: **“If I had not shot immediately, I would have been killed!”**
- In the event of an attack, you will only have the techniques you have already learned and the tools within arm’s reach to defend yourself. Make sure that you have enough personal protection gear for whatever situations you may encounter.
- Not all threats are lethal, so you’ll need a defense plan against non-lethal threats: chemical spray, stun gun, etc.
- If your handgun jammed or had a malfunction at any time during your 50-round qualification course of fire – you are not ready to defend yourself with that firearm! Fix the firearm, or obtain a better and more reliable firearm, and acquire better shooting techniques. Failures in training are indicators of potential failures during real threat encounters.
- Judgment and timing are important survival elements. Drawing and presenting a firearm may defeat your threat – or it may escalate a situation and put you at greater risk.
- Poor shooting skills are not a good defense against a real lethal force threat. Practice helps.
- You cannot legally shoot a person for merely *possessing* a lethal force weapon. The lethal weapon must also pose an *immediate* threat to you or another before you can protect yourself with lethal force.
- You do not have to speak to the police concerning the incident you are involved in. Give them your name and address and then ask to speak to your attorney before you make a formal statement. State that you were attacked and that you defended yourself, point out your attacker and witnesses, and then leave the rest to the police to investigate. The longer the statement that you make, the more complicated it may become later for your attorney. If you do not feel well after the incident, ask to see a doctor.
- Evasion and avoidance are your best course of action. A firearm may help, but it is not the answer to most conflicts. Carrying a gun only provides you with a tool that you may choose to use to protect yourself.
- If you scored well on the 50-round qualification course of fire it means that you were able to operate your equipment well in a classroom setting: nobody was shooting at you, it was daylight, and your target wasn’t moving. Reality requires more skill.
- If you did not score well during the course of fire, you really need to dedicate more time and resources toward learning how to operate your handgun more effectively. We can help you to become more competent with your equipment.



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