

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

The class usually lasts about six hours, 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 Sunday 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 sign up and get your name on the class roster 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, but 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 initial application. You may add up to a total of 10 handguns to your permit after it has been issued. Most people will not practice with too many handguns though, so it may be a better idea to only list and carry a few handguns that you are proficient with.

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

You need to qualify with each type of handgun on the permit. So if you have qualified with a semi-automatic pistol, you can add other semi-automatic pistols; if you have qualified with a revolver, you can add other revolvers. If you want to add a handgun that is of a different type, you need to qualify with that handgun (ie. you have revolvers on the permit, but want to add a semi-automatic pistol, you need to qualify with the semi-automatic). 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 and qualify with the new handgun (free of charge). Call the Sheriff's Office at 559-675-7770 or the Oakhurst Substation at 559-642-3201 to make arrangements. You can also qualify with the different type of 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 or your spouse; handguns registered to another family member or a 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 1-1-2000, 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 1-1-00.

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?

The basic principal that must be articulated is for defense of myself and my family against threats of serious injury or death from an assailant. There are numerous different ways to express this concept, but this is the basis for the “good cause” to issue a CCW. Many people understand, and should articulate, that law enforcement emergency responses may be quite extended in many areas of the county and wish to have a means to protect themselves against crimes of violence, involving a threat of great bodily injury or death, until law enforcement arrives. Many people will have other specific needs for an increased self defense ability, these should be clearly and briefly articulated (ie. owners or employees of businesses who carry large sums of money or valuable equipment; people who are required to travel or work in high crime or rural areas; people with physical impairments that would make it difficult or impossible to defend themselves or escape from an attack).

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 and the application process must begin 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 Department. Processing of CCW renewals will be by appointment only due to the current staffing issues. 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 Lieutenant about the circumstances surrounding the denial. Occasionally applicants will be called in for an interview to clarify certain things 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. 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, so you can make an appointment and speak with a Sheriff's Lieutenant about the circumstances.