Licensing Process in Albany County
(handguns & now semi-automatic rifles)

- Must be a NYS resident of 21 years of age or older unless honorably discharged from the U.S. military
- Cannot be prohibited from firearms ownership
- Complete 2 state application (PPB-3)
- Obtain 4 local character references who are not family and who have known you over a year
- Complete the supplemental info form (which now includes disclosing social media accounts for the past three years for concealed carry applicants).
- Obtain an official driver's abstract from DMV
- Obtain a certified firearms safety course certificate (16 hours of in-person classroom with a score of 80% or more on a written test and 2 hours of live fire training for carry concealed pistol licenses that will be issued on or after 09/01/22)
- Schedule fingerprints with the police agency through which you are applying and submit your completed application packet for background investigation
- Completed investigations are forwarded to the County Clerk's Office for processing
- Applications are assigned to a County Court or NYS Supreme Court judge for review
- An in person interview is conducted by the judge with the applicant and a decision rendered
- If denied, as of April 1, 2023, an applicant may appeal to a board which is to be established by the Superintendent of the State Police and the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).
- If approved, any additions or dispositions of firearms for licenses must be done by submitting both state (PPB-5) and County amendment forms to the County Clerk via postal mail only. The fee is payable upon approval of the amendment by the licensee's assigned judge.
- Recertification for carry concealed licenses with the State Police will now be every 3 years as of September 1, 2022, while other types remain every 5 years. Semi-automatic rifle recertification will be every 5 years through the licensee's assigned judge.
- Licenses must be carried on your person when in possession of a revolver, pistol, or semi–automatic rifle as of September 1, 2022 and exhibited upon request by a police or peace officer acting pursuant to their duties.

The Albany County Sheriff's Office was established in the 1660's and is one of the oldest Sheriff's agencies in the United States. Since its inception, the agency has consistently grown to its current strength of 672 employees. The Sheriff's Office provides not only law enforcement and corrections services, but also Community Support, 911 Communications, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services to the residents and visitors of Albany County.

This brochure is not meant to a be complete detailed explanation of all legislative changes.

For more information please visit

www.albanycountysheriff.com

troopers.ny.gov/firearms

-OR-

Follow the Albany County Sheriff on Facebook and Twitter

ALBANY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A brief guide to firearms licensing in Albany County & some of the recent changes to state firearms laws in 2022

Albany County Sheriff's Office

16 Eagle Street
Albany, New York 12207
PHONE: (518) 487-5400
E-MAIL: ContactSheriff@AlbanyCounty.com

CRAIG D. APPLE, SR.
SHERIFF

IN AN EMERGENCY
DIAL 9-1-1

Changes to NYS Firearms Regulations
(Summer of 2022)

- **Restrictions—** Following the U.S. Supreme Court decision of June 2022, those seeking removal of restrictions form their pistol license should file an amendment with the County Clerk's Office via postal mail. Requests will be determined by the licensee's assigned judge.
- **Safety Course**— Individuals seeking a new concealed carry license to be issued on or after 09/01/22 will be required to take the new 16 hours of in-person classroom training, score a minimum of 80% on a written test, and complete 2 hours of live fire training. The standards are established by the NYSP & DCJS. The safety course requirements for all other license types remain unchanged. This is not required for existing concelaed carry licensees outside of NYC or Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties.
- **Recertification**— As of 09/01/2022, recertification of concealed carry licenses must now be done every 3 years. If issued before 09/01/2019 or expiring before 09/01/2023 then licensees must recertify no later than 09/01/2023. Recertification of non-concealed carry licenses remains at every 5 years. The recertification process is still done through the NYSP at ny.troopers.gov/firearms. For semi-automatic rifles, recertification is every 5 years through the licensee's assigned judge. This presumably means through the County Clerk's Office like a license amendment, but this exact process in every location remains uncertain.

- **New Locational Restrictions for Carry—** As of 09/01/2022, NYS Penal Law 265.01-e makes it a crime to possess a firearm, rifle, or shotgun in or upon a "*sensitive location*" as defined by law. This includes government locations; courts; healthcare & treatment providers; places of worship or religious observance; libraries; public playgrounds, parks, & zoos; education institutions; child care facilities; locations for OMH or OPWDD programs; shelters; public transit; establishments licensed for on premise consumption of alcohol or cannabis; public entertainment venues; polling places; public areas with restricted access for permitted special events; and gatherings to express constitutional rights to protest or assemble.
- As of 09/01/2022, it will also be a crime under NYS Penal Law 265.01-d to possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun and enter or remain on or in private property where the owner or lessee has not permitted such possession through signage or express consent.
- Neither of these sections apply to current or retired police or peace officers, persons engaged in lawful hunting activity, registered armed security guards while performing their duties and others as defined by sub-section 2 of said law.
- Future legal challenges or injunctions may effect these restrictions in the future.

- **Semi-Automatic Rifles—** As of 09/04/2022, a license will be required to purchase or take possession of a semi-automatic rifle. Applications utilize the same documents and process as for a pistol license. Existing pistol license holders may add such rifles to their current license without reapplying. As is currently done with pistols, adding or removing semi-automatic rifles from a state license shall be accomplished by filing an amendment with the County Clerk's Office. Sale or purchase without a license will now be a crime under NYS Penal Law 265.65 & 265.66.
- **Ammunition Sales—** A background check will be required to purchase ammunition. This may be through the federal NICS database or as otherwise established by the Superintendent of the State Police. The effective date is yet to be determined but may be by the fall of 2023.
- **Safe Storage—** No person shall allow a person under the age of 18 (formerly 16) or who is prohibited by law or court order to possess a firearm, rifle, or shotgun. The same must be stored, whether in a residence or a vehicle, in a safe depository or disabled with a gun locking device. Safe depository means a lockable container that is fire, impact, and tamper resistant and kept separate from ammunition and does not include a vehicle's glove compartment. Persons under 18 may possess a rifle or shotgun when holding a hunting license and used lawfully or at a shooting range as set forth in NYS Penal Law 265.20 (7) or (7e).