



EXECUTIVE ORDER AND DIRECTIVE NO. 25-03
Issued by
ALBANY COUNTY EXECUTIVE DANIEL P. McCOY

WHEREAS, the County of Albany is committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing, and quality of life of all its residents, particularly in light of rising concerns around youth violence; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, there has been an alarming increase in the number of incidents in Albany County involving the use of flare guns by minors to carry out violent acts, including shootings that have led to serious injury, an incinerated building and significant threats to public safety; and

WHEREAS, although flare guns are designed and marketed as emergency signaling devices, they are capable of causing severe bodily harm and property damage when misused, especially given the rising number of cases of flare guns being illegally converted into firearms; and

WHEREAS, unlike firearms, flare guns are not subject to age-based sales restrictions under federal law, making them more accessible to underage individuals who may seek to use them for harmful purposes; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albany recognizes the urgent need to restrict the sale and transfer of flare guns to persons under the age of twenty-one to prevent further harm and reduce access to potentially dangerous devices by youth; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of county leadership to take swift, preventive measures in response to emerging threats that endanger residents and undermine community safety;

NOW THEREFORE, I Daniel P. McCoy, County Executive for Albany County, New York, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Albany County Charter, and by the laws of the State of New York, HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT THAT:

The sale of flare guns be restricted as follows:

1. No person, firm, corporation, or other business entity shall sell, offer for sale, or distribute any flare gun to a person under the age of twenty-one years.
2. Prior to the completion of any sale or transfer of a flare gun, the seller shall require the purchaser to present a valid government-issued photo identification verifying that the purchaser is twenty-one years of age or older.
3. For the purposes of this Order, “flare gun” means any handheld signaling device, Very pistol, or signal pistol designed and purposed to fire a pyrotechnic flare, whether single-shot or multi-shot, and whether marketed for maritime, emergency, or recreational use.
4. This Order shall not apply to sales or transfers to:
 - (a) Law enforcement agencies;
 - (b) Members of the armed forces of other governmental personnel acting within the scope of their official duties; or
 - (c) Persons under twenty-one years of age participating in a supervised training program approved by the commissioner of parks, recreation and historic preservation or the division of homeland security and emergency services.

5. Any person, firm, or corporation who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated: 13th day of October, 2025
Albany, NY


Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive