



NEW LEGISLATION WOULD EMPOWER SOUTH CAROLINIANS WITH CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY

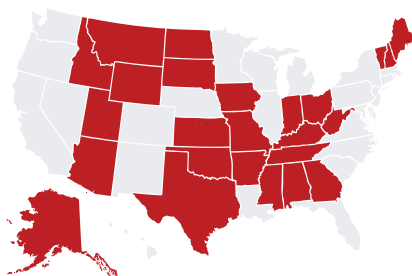
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Constitutional carry, or **permitless carry**, codifies the right of law-abiding citizens to carry a handgun—open and/or concealed carry—without a permit. It is the primary way states formally recognize the right to bear arms as an extension of the right to self-defense, not as merely a privilege bestowed by the government.

South Carolina currently does not have a law permitting constitutional carry.

How common is constitutional carry?

- ★ In January 2023, Alabama's constitutional carry law went into effect, making it the 25th state to pass constitutional carry.
- ★ 18 of these 25 states had a constitutional carry law go into effect within the last decade.



SOUTH CAROLINA BY THE NUMBERS

479,000 PERMITS
as of October 2022

MORE THAN **11%**
of South Carolina adults
practice concealed carry

The people of South Carolina are estimated to use a gun defensively

26,000 TIMES PER YEAR.

Why is constitutional carry important?

- ★ Constitutional carry allows law-abiding Americans to carry firearms freely, without bureaucratic restrictions or governmental mandates like mandatory training requirements and other deterrent or restrictive policies.
- ★ Low-income citizens will especially benefit from constitutional carry laws in states that currently impose onerous fees throughout the application and permitting process.

The **2021 National Firearms Survey** estimates that the U.S. has

1.67 MILLION INSTANCES ANNUALLY
when someone **uses a gun to defend**
themselves or others around them.

Clearing Up Common Misconceptions Surrounding Constitutional Carry

Constitutional carry does **NOT** allow felons or other prohibited persons to own/carry a firearm.

- ★ Under constitutional carry, it remains unlawful for all individuals already prohibited by federal and/or state law—including felons, the mentally ill, users of controlled substances, and convicted domestic abusers—to purchase, possess, or carry a firearm.
- ★ Under federal and/or state law, all states with constitutional carry still require lawful citizens to undergo background checks before purchasing a firearm from a firearms dealer.

Constitutional carry, or loosening restrictions on the right to carry, will **NOT** lead to an increase in crime.

- ★ One study found no statistically significant relationship between constitutional carry laws and homicide.
- ★ Of the top 10 states with the lowest violent crime rates, 5 have constitutional carry, including the 3 safest—Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.