

What is Constitutional Carry?

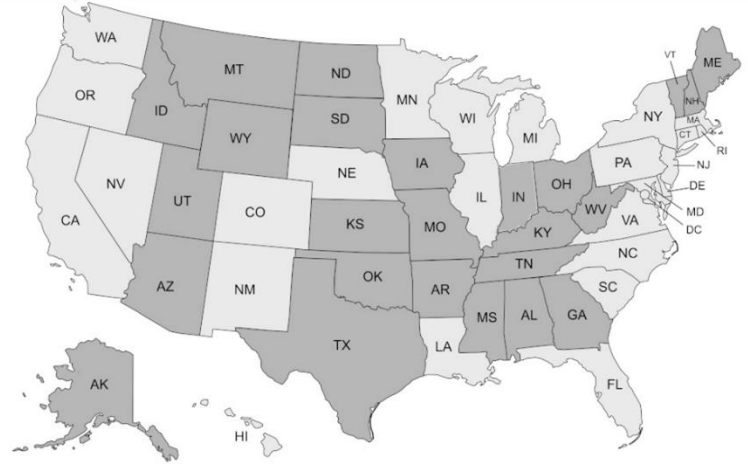
STATE LEGISLATION: PERMITLESS CARRY

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

How Common is Constitutional Carry?

- ★ In January 2023, Alabama's constitutional carry Law will go into effect, making it the 25th state to pass constitutional carry.
- ★ 18 of these 25 states had constitutional carry go into effect within the last decade, demonstrating its growing popularity with law-abiding citizens across the country.



Why is Constitutional Carry Important?

- ★ Constitutional carry allows law-abiding Americans to carry firearms freely, without bureaucratic restrictions or government mandates like mandatory training requirements and other deterrent or restrictive policies.
- ★ Low-income citizens may especially benefit from constitutional carry laws in states that currently impose onerous fees throughout the permitting process.
- ★ **Example:** New York requires citizens seeking a permit to carry to complete classes that can cost up to \$350—estimated to rise to \$500 with new laws—not including the necessary equipment and supplies needed to successfully complete the training.

Common Misconceptions Surrounding Constitutional Carry

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

- ★ For all individuals previously prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal or state law—including felons, the mentally ill, users of controlled substances, and convicted domestic abusers—it remains unlawful to obtain a firearm under constitutional carry.
- ★ All states with constitutional carry, under federal and/or state law, still require lawful citizens to undergo background checks before purchasing a firearm from an arms dealer.

Constitutional carry, or loosening any 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—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wyoming, and Idaho—including the top 3 lowest—Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.