

Office of Attorney General

NORTH DAKOTA CONCEALED WEAPON LICENSE



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NOTICE.....	2
THE CONCEALED WEAPONS WEBSITE	3
QUESTIONS?.....	4
RECIPROCITY.....	5
THE TEST & THE LAWS	6
WEAPONS LAWS.....	6
TITLE 62.1 - WEAPONS	6
CHAPTER 62.1-01 DEFINITIONS – GENERAL PROVISIONS	6
CHAPTER 62.1-02 POSSESSION OF WEAPONS.....	6
CHAPTER 62.1-03 HANDGUNS.....	6
CHAPTER 62.1-04 CONCEALED WEAPONS	6
CHAPTER 62.1-05 MACHINE GUNS, AUTOMATIC RIFLES, SILENCERS, BOMBS.....	6
SELF DEFENSE.....	6
TITLE 12.1 – CRIMINAL CODE	6
CHAPTER 12.1-01 GENERAL DEFINITIONS	6
CHAPTER 12.1-05 JUSTIFICATION.....	6
BASIC HANDGUN USE	7
FIREARMS SAFETY	7
SAFETY RULES	7
TYPES OF HANDGUNS	9
REVOLVERS	9
SEMI-AUTOMATIC (PISTOLS)	9
BASIC INSPECTION GUIDE.....	10
EXTERIOR.....	10
BARREL	10
FUNCTION	10
SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS	11
BREATH CONTROL	11
STANCE	11
GRIP	11
TRIGGER PULL	11
PISTOL.....	12
TRIGGER RESET	12
SIGHTING A FIREARM	12
SIGHT ALIGNMENT.....	12
SIGHT PICTURE.....	13
ADJUSTING THE SIGHTS	13
LOADING A HANDGUN	13
REVOLVER.....	13
PISTOL	14
ADMINISTRATIVE UNLOADING	14
RELOADING	14
MALFUNCTIONS WITH A HANDGUN.....	14

NOTICE

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT/RENEWAL APPLICANT TO COMPLY FULLY WITH ALL RULES, REGULATIONS, AND PROCESSES RELATING TO APPLYING FOR A LICENSE TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON.

IT IS THE CONCEALED WEAPON LICENSE HOLDER'S DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW, UNDERSTAND, AND COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.

A LICENSE HOLDER MAY NOT CARRY CONCEALED IF THE LICENSE HAS EXPIRED, EVEN IF THE RENEWAL APPLICATION IS BEING PROCESSED. TIMELY RENEWAL IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LICENSE HOLDER.

THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE BCI ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM PROVIDING LEGAL ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC. FOR AN INTERPRETATION OF STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND THEIR APPLICABILITY, CONTACT AN ATTORNEY IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

THE CONCEALED WEAPONS WEBSITE

It is *extremely important* that all initial and renewal applicants review the information on the Concealed Weapon License pages of the Attorney General's website:

www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov.

Why?

Because ... your license is good for five years BUT the legislature meets every two years. If, during a legislative session, any of the laws that affect possession of weapons or concealed weapons are changed ...

- **AS A LICENSE HOLDER, YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO BE AWARE OF, AND COMPLY WITH, THE LAWS, *EVEN IF THEY HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOUR LICENSE WAS ISSUED.***

That means between the time you get your license and the time to renew it, the laws may have been changed twice or even three times – and the application and renewal process may have changed, too.

As a service to our license holders, the information on our website is **always** current. When the laws, forms, procedures or rules change, we update the information on our website. If you have a question about the application or renewal process - what you need to do, where to do it, or how long it takes - go to the website. **The answers are there!**

- Go to www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov then click on the “Concealed Weapon Licenses” link.

Please do not call the BCI to inquire about the status of your application – we are prohibited by law from providing status information, even to the applicant.

QUESTIONS?

Issue	Information
Address Change	You must notify the BCI of an address change within 30 days, by completing the Change Request form , available on the website. You are not required to have your license updated but you can choose to do so. There is no charge.
Application attachments	Before submitting the application to the BCI, make sure you have all required documents attached. You can review the checklist online at “ What Must Be Included with An Application .”
Application fee	\$60, cashiers check or money order (no personal checks), payable to Office of Attorney General.
Application Status Check	It takes up to 60 days after we receive a properly completed application that has all required documentation. If it has been more than 60 days since you submitted a properly completed application, you can submit a status check inquiry by following the instructions on the “ Application Status ” page of the website.
Class 1 renewal – testing	To renew a class 1 license, you must retake all the training and testing as if you were a new applicant.
Class 2 Renewal – testing	Testing is not required to renew a class 2 license.
Expired License	An expired license is not valid and cannot be renewed.
Lost License	To replace a lost or stolen license, complete and submit a Change Request form , available on the website. There is no charge for the replacement.
Name Change	You must notify the BCI of a name change by completing the Change Request form , available on the website. Your license must be reissued in your new name. There is no charge.
Renewal Notice	The renewal reminder notice is sent to the last address BCI has on file. Please ensure you notify us of a change of address. Timely renewal is the responsibility of the license holder.
Testing site – where?	To go “ Find a Test Administrator ” on the CWL website.

RECIPROCITY

North Dakota has reciprocity with many, but not all, other states. This means that a North Dakota concealed weapon license is valid while in those states, and licenses from those states are recognized as valid in North Dakota.

- BCI maintains a list of states with which North Dakota has reciprocity on the Concealed Weapon License page online at www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov.
- If you are travelling, you must follow the law of the jurisdiction you are visiting.

It is the responsibility of the license holder to review the laws of both the issuing state and reciprocal state to ensure full compliance.

THE TEST & THE LAWS

The questions on the open book test are taken from the information in this manual and the relevant chapters of the North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.), which are listed below.

Please carefully review this information. All applicants must score 100% on Part 1 (questions 1-28) and 70% on Part 2 (questions 29-35 – at least 5 correct answers) in order to pass the test.

The full text of the chapters of the North Dakota Century Code referenced is available for view and download, at no charge, on the Legislative Council's website,

- <http://www.legis.nd.gov/general-information/north-dakota-century-code>.

WEAPONS LAWS

[TITLE 62.1 - WEAPONS](#)

CHAPTER 62.1-01 DEFINITIONS – GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 62.1-02 POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

CHAPTER 62.1-03 HANDGUNS

CHAPTER 62.1-04 CONCEALED WEAPONS

CHAPTER 62.1-05 MACHINE GUNS, AUTOMATIC RIFLES, SILENCERS,
BOMBS

SELF DEFENSE

[TITLE 12.1 – CRIMINAL CODE](#)

CHAPTER 12.1-01 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

CHAPTER 12.1-05 JUSTIFICATION

BASIC HANDGUN USE

FIREARMS SAFETY

YOU are ultimately responsible for your weapons, at home, at a shooting range and everywhere else. This includes cleaning, dry-firing and storage of the weapons. There is no such thing as an “accidental discharge,” only an unintentional discharge! It wasn't an accident; someone didn't practice safety.

SAFETY RULES

(1) TREAT EVERY WEAPON AS IF IT IS LOADED.

Never point any weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot. Most unintentional discharges occur as a result of someone thinking it was unloaded (but it goes off anyway).

(2) KEEP THE FIREARM POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.

Should an unintentional discharge occur, having your firearm pointed in a safe direction offers an additional layer of safety.

(3) KEEP YOUR FINGER OUTSIDE THE FIREARM'S TRIGGER GUARD AND OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE THE WEAPON.

Many people have had a gun discharge when not expected because they placed their finger on the trigger when handling the weapon.

(4) BE CERTAIN THAT YOUR TARGET AND SURROUNDING AREA ARE SAFE BEFORE FIRING.

(5) A LOADED WEAPON IN THE HOME HAS A MUCH GREATER DANGER POTENTIAL THAN AN UNLOADED WEAPON.

Many people feel that they need to have loaded weapons within reach in their homes for security reasons. Weapons should be secured, unloaded and/or locked to prevent children or untrained adults from being able to access them.

(6) NEVER FULLY DEPEND ON THE MECHANICAL SAFETY DEVICE.

Just like everything else that is mechanical, safeties can fail. Having the safety on is a good practice but never depend on it entirely. Keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction at all times and unload and secure it when you are not planning on using it.

(7) ANYTIME A WEAPON IS GIVEN TO YOU, CHECK THE WEAPON TO SEE IF IT IS LOADED.

Open the cylinder or action. Look and feel to make sure the weapon is empty.

- Most semi-automatic handguns will fire even if the magazine is out.

(8) IF A COCKED WEAPON IS GIVEN TO YOU, POINT THE WEAPON IN A SAFE DIRECTION.

The proper procedure to follow:

Revolver: Hold the hammer with the thumb of one hand. Pull the trigger slowly to release the hammer. Once the hammer is released, let go of the trigger and slowly let the hammer down to the rest position. Open the cylinder to ensure there is nothing in the cylinder. (Note: some revolvers have hidden or partially concealed hammers or have been made unable to be cocked.)

Pistol: Remove the magazine from the magazine well. Work the slide to the rear and (if possible) lock it in the open position. Look and feel to ensure there is nothing in the chamber. (Note: Some pistols do not have hammers and some work on a “double action only” mechanism (and cannot be cocked). Of those that have external exposed hammers, there may be several ways to lower the hammer – by the action of a “decocker” or manually (as with a revolver)).

(9) IF YOU ARE GOING TO PASS A WEAPON TO SOMEONE ELSE, PASS IT TO THEM WITH THE MAGAZINE OUT AND THE ACTION LOCKED BACK OR WITH THE CYLINDER OPEN.

Be courteous to others. Show them that you are practicing safety in your actions. Then make sure that they check the weapon anyway.

(10) INSPECT YOUR WEAPONS FOR PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE.

Follow the manufacturer’s specifications for care and maintenance.

If you have any questions or concerns, seek the assistance of a professional (certified armorer or reputable gun smith).

TYPES OF HANDGUNS

REVOLVERS

- Single Action – Hammer must be cocked by hand to fire.
- Double Action – May be fired after manually cocking the hammer, or trigger pulled with the hammer at the rest position for every shot.
- Double Action only – Hidden hammer design or may have trigger/hammer made to not allow cocking.

SEMI-AUTOMATIC (PISTOLS)

- Single Action – Hammer must be in cocked position to fire.
- Double/Single – The first round fired is double action and subsequent shots are single action. Weapon may have manual decocking levers.
- Full Double Action – For every shot the hammer returns to the at rest position.
- Striker fired – No external hammer; all action takes place internally.

BASIC INSPECTION GUIDE

EXTERIOR

- Make sure that there are no spots of rust or corrosion;
- Make sure there are no bulges or bent parts;
- Make sure that the weapon is clean;
- Make sure that the sights are not loose.

BARREL

- Look to see that there is nothing lodged in the barrel;
- Look for any deposits and that the barrel is clean.

FUNCTION

- Make sure that the weapon functions properly mechanically:
 - For a pistol
 - Slide locks back (if design allows);
 - Slide release works (if design includes);
 - Magazine locks in and releases properly.
 - For a revolver
 - Cylinder opens and closes properly;
 - Cylinder rotates without binding.

IF ANY MECHANICAL PROBLEM IS FOUND, take the weapon to a qualified armorer or gunsmith.

SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS

BREATH CONTROL

There are many schools of thought with hunters and competition shooters depending on the weapon. The key is to keep breathing. The first visible sign of the lack of oxygen to the brain is trembling.

STANCE

Many different stances are available and have been taught in the past including Modern Isosceles, Point shoulder, Weaver and Modified weaver. A proper shooting stance must provide a **Stable Shooting Platform**, good mobility and - for your body type and mechanics - be one you are comfortable in.

GRIP

The proper grip differs with the type of handgun being used. For a pistol the hand is placed high, right under the tang. Grip strength must be appropriate with a very firm grip needed to allow action to cycle.

For a revolver, the hand is placed high up on the back strap with the webbing between thumb and trigger finger at very top of the grip - handshake grip strength.

For either handgun, the support hand should not exert uneven pressure but should provide support. Both thumbs should be on the same side of the weapon and should not impede the weapon's function. Watch the position of the support hand index finger.

Depending on the firearm type and trigger pull, the trigger finger should make contact with the trigger between the first joint and the pad.

- Revolver grips may be changed to fit hand.
- Pistol grips may or may not be adjustable, so hand position can be important.

TRIGGER PULL

Depending on your level of experience, you may not know exactly when the gun will fire:

- The shot going off may be a “surprise break”
- Don't anticipate (flinch)
- Don't make the gun shoot when you want it to (jerk)

“Trigger pull” should be a smooth press straight to the rear.

PISTOL

Follow-through:

- What your finger does after the shot
- Hold trigger back until recoil is over and gun is back on line

TRIGGER RESET

- How far you let the trigger go forward for the next shot
- Should go forward only far enough to re-engage the sear
- FINGER MUST STAY IN CONTACT WITH THE TRIGGER FROM THE TIME IT GOES ON UNTIL NO MORE SHOTS WILL BE TAKEN.
- You should not know the exact instant a handgun will fire. There are two most common mistakes made while shooting that affect accuracy. The first is to anticipate the gun going off. This is a “flinch” and will cause the bullets to go high. The second and more common mistake is to make the gun go off when you want it to. This is called a “jerk” and will cause the bullets to go low.

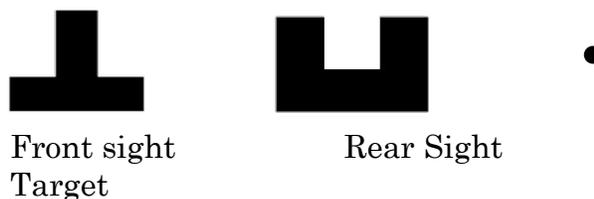
SIGHTING A FIREARM

Which eye should be used for aiming?

- Right-handed, right eye?
- Left handed, left eye?
- Dominant eye?
 - Cross-eye dominance
- Both eyes?

SIGHT ALIGNMENT

There are three components used for sighting:



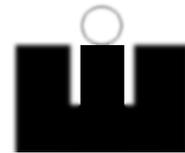
The relationship between the front sight, rear sight and where you want the bullet to strike is called **SIGHT ALIGNMENT**.

Proper sight alignment is: the front sight blade is centered and level with the top of the rear sight and just below where you want the bullet to strike on the target.



SIGHT PICTURE

Sight picture is what you will see or how you will see the sights. Vision should be focused on the front sight. The rear sight and where the bullet will strike will look a little blurry.



ADJUSTING THE SIGHTS

Weapons should come from the manufacturer with the sights adjusted properly. A weapon does not shoot where it has not been pointed.

Sight alignment and sight picture are key. Unless the sights are damaged or have been moved, there is usually no reason to adjust the sights. People sometimes adjust the sights to cover for improper shooting technique.

If the sights have been damaged or previously moved, it is typically the rear sight that is adjusted.

- Move the rear sight in the same direction that you want the bullet impact to move.
 - If bullet impact is low, move rear blade up;
 - If bullet impact is left, move rear blade right;
 - If bullet impact is high and right, move rear blade down and left.

LOADING A HANDGUN

Prior to loading a handgun that is completely empty it should be inspected to ensure it is clean and a function check done.

REVOLVER

A revolver may be loaded by pointing the weapon in a safe direction, opening the cylinder and placing a round into each charge hole in the cylinder. Once fully charged, properly close the cylinder of the revolver.

PISTOL

A pistol may be loaded by pointing the weapon in a safe direction and inserting a loaded magazine into the magazine well of the weapon, seating the magazine by pushing it in until a click is heard/felt.

Once the magazine is properly seated, continuing to keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction, “work” the slide to chamber a round.

If you wish to “top off” your magazine, the best practice is to holster your pistol, then activate the magazine catch and remove the magazine. Load one round into the magazine, then reinsert the magazine into the magazine well of the pistol.

You can make sure the magazine is properly seated by pulling on the floor plate.

ADMINISTRATIVE UNLOADING

A **revolver** may be unloaded by pointing the weapon in a safe direction, activating the thumb piece to open the cylinder, then pointing the muzzle up to allow the rounds to fall out of the charge holes.

A **pistol** may be unloaded by pointing the pistol in a safe direction, pressing the magazine button to allow the magazine to fall free of the magazine well, then, using your support hand and keeping your fingers clear of the muzzle and ejection port, pull back on and lock the slide to the rear. Do not attempt to catch the loose round; the loose round should fall on the floor.

RELOADING

To reload a **revolver**, empty (unload) just as with the administrative unloading process however, you may need to press the extractor rod to remove the empty brass while the muzzle is pointed up. Allow the brass/rounds to fall to the ground. Once unloaded, point the muzzle downward and new ammunition may be placed into the weapon (as with the loading process). Close the cylinder properly.

To reload a **pistol**, the slide may lock back on an empty magazine. With your support hand, obtain the spare magazine and while holding it properly, bring it towards the weapon while simultaneously releasing the magazine from the pistol, allowing it to fall to the ground. Insert the new magazine into the magazine well. Use the support hand to retract and release the slide allowing it to chamber a fresh round.

MALFUNCTIONS WITH A HANDGUN

Anything mechanical may fail at some time. It is important that handguns be inspected, cleaned and maintained regularly. It is rare that a revolver will

malfunction while shooting. Bad ammunition may cause a problem but anything else will probably be something that has broken in the weapon and it must be fixed.

Pistols are another matter; there are several reasons a pistol may fail while shooting. The vast majority of malfunctions are caused by the shooter including the lack of cleaning, poor maintenance and improper grip while shooting. Bad magazines are the next leading cause. Clean and check the magazines on a regular basis just as you do with the pistol (no oil).

Bad ammunition may also cause malfunctions. Some manufacturer's warranties will be void if reloaded ammunition is used. Follow manufacturer guidelines as it relates to the type of ammunition used (new vs reloaded; lead vs jacketed).

Each time the trigger is pulled on a revolver, the cylinder rotates and a new round is struck by the firing pin.

If a malfunction occurs with a revolver you have two options:

- Pull the trigger again
- Unload and then reload the cylinder

A pistol has four distinct operations that must be completed for each shot.

- Feed, fire, extract and eject.

The first step in the process to clear a basic malfunction of a pistol is called "tap - rack." To properly perform the tap-rack the finger must come off of the trigger. The flat open support hand slaps the bottom of the magazine and the slide is racked just as when initially loading the weapon. Do not cover the ejection port. The weapon may be canted to the right to let gravity assist in removing anything from the pistol.

- If either a fail to extract or fail to eject occurs, it is likely that a double feed condition will be created.
 - One empty and one live round, both trying to occupy the same space.
- The slide will probably not be in battery and a simple "tap - rack" will not alleviate your problem.

The remedy for a double feed is called "rip - work - tap - rack."

- **Rip** means to remove the magazine. There will be one round partially in the weapon and partially in the magazine so it may be difficult to rip the magazine out. Point the weapon in a safe direction and the finger must be off the trigger. Press the magazine catch and grab the floor plate of the magazine to pull it out.
- **Work** means to work the action back and forth rapidly several times.
- **Tap-rack** Tap - Rack: The finger comes off of the trigger. The flat open support hand slaps the bottom of the magazine, and the slide is racked (just as when initially loading the weapon). Do not cover the ejection port! The weapon may be canted to the right to let gravity assist in removing anything from the pistol.

