

Office of Attorney General

NORTH DAKOTA CONCEALED WEAPON LICENSE



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NOTICE.....	2
THE CONCEALED WEAPON WEBSITE.....	3
QUESTIONS.....	4
RECIPROCITY.....	5
THE TEST AND 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,.....	6
SILENCERS, BOMBS	
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 PRESS.....	12
TRIGGER RESET.....	12
SIGHTING A FIREARM.....	12
SIGHT ALIGNMENT.....	12
SIGHT PICTURE.....	13
ADJUSTING THE SIGHTS.....	13
LOADING A HANDGUN.....	14
REVOLVER.....	14
PISTOL.....	14
ADMINISTRATIVE UNLOADING.....	15
RELOADING.....	15
MALFUNCTIONS WITH A HANDGUN.....	15
INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.....	18

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 UNDER HIS/HER CONCEALED WEAPON LICENSE 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 WEAPON WEBSITE

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

<https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/public-safety/concealed-weapon-licenses/>

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!

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.
Application Fee	\$60 cashier's check or money order (no personal checks), payable to North Dakota 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 returned and reissued in your new name. There is no charge.
Renewal Notice	The renewal reminder notice is sent to the last address the 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?	Go to "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.

The BCI maintains a list of states with which North Dakota has reciprocity on the Concealed Weapon Licensing page online.

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 the manual and the relevant chapters of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC), 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:

<https://ndlegis.gov/general-information/north-dakota-century-code/index.html>

WEAPONS LAW

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/negligent 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 the weapon 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 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 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 actions take 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 revolver

- Cylinder opens and closes properly.
- Cylinder rotates without binding.

For a pistol

- Slide locks back (if design allows).
- Slide stop works (if design includes).
- Magazine locks in and releases properly.

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 Isosceles, Point Shoulder, Weaver and Modified Weaver/Modern Isosceles.

A proper shooting stance must provide a Stable Shooting Platform. It should offer good mobility and, for your body type and mechanics, be a stance you are comfortable in.

A more aggressive stance with a forward lean will aid in allowing the recoil to move through your body to the ground.

GRIP

The proper grip will help with recoil control.

REVOLVER

The hand is placed high up on the back strap with the webbing between thumb and trigger finger at the very top of the grip – handshake grip strength.

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.

In regards to the support hand:

- The support hand should not exert uneven pressure causing the firearm to be pulled off alignment.
- Should provide support to function the firearm.
- 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.

The hands should offer 360 degrees of support to the pistol.

The master grip should be created from the holster, allowing sights to be aligned from the draw. This will reduce the time when drawing, coming on target and firing a shot.

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

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

TRIGGER PRESS

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
- Don’t make the gun shoot when you want it to (jerk)

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

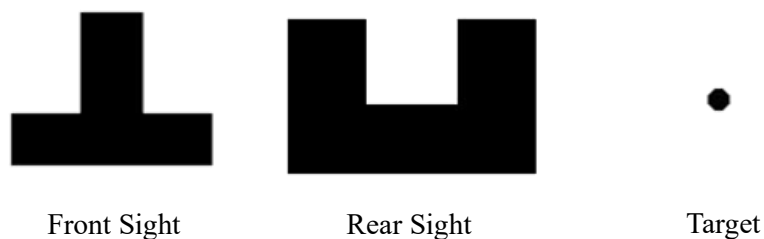
SIGHTING A FIREARM

Which eye should be used for aiming?

- Right-handed, right eye?
- Left-handed, left eye?
- Dominant eye?
 - Cross-eye dominant
- 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**.

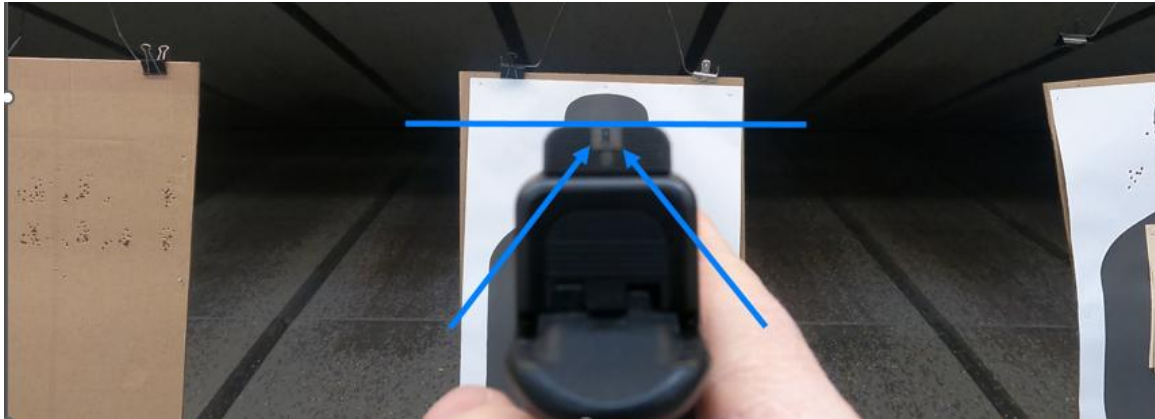
PROPER SIGHT ALIGNMENT

Front sight is centered in rear sight.

Top of front sight is level with the top of the rear sight.

Equal light coming through the rear sight.

Front sight is in focus; target and rear sight should not be in focus.

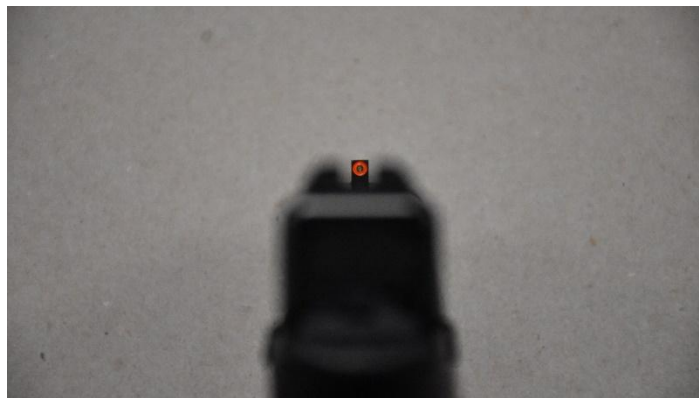


SIGHT PICTURE

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 usually is 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 you want the bullet impact to move.

- If bullet impact is low, move rear sight up.
- If bullet impact is left, move rear sight right.
- If bullet impact is high and right, move rear sight down and left.

FIREARM FUNCTION

There are four distinct operations of a firearm:

1. Feed
2. Fire
3. Extract
4. Eject

Depending on the type of firearm, these operations may be manual or automatic.

If there is an interruption in these operations, a malfunction may occur.

LOADING A HANDGUN

Prior to loading a handgun that is completely empty it should be inspected to ensure it is clean, in good repair 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, move the slide to the rear and release the slide in order 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

REVOLVER

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.

PISTOL

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

REVOLVER

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.

PISTOL

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.

REVOLVER

It is rare that a revolver will malfunction.

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

To Fix: If the ammunition is the cause, simply remove the ammunition from the cylinder and recharge with appropriate rounds.

PISTOL

There are several reasons a pistol may fail. 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 (except 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).

To Fix: 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 the trigger.

TAP

The flat open support hand slaps the bottom of the magazine.

RACK

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.

DOUBLE FEED

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

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

Work the action back and forth rapidly several times.

TAP-RACK

Same as before but now includes inserting a magazine into the weapon and rack means to chamber a round by cycling the slide.

- 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.

INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Officers are hired by a community and specifically tasked for the purpose of keeping the peace and investigating violations of law. Officers have sworn to uphold the Constitution and seek to provide an impartial perspective of incidents.

When an officer comes on scene, they are often responding to a chaotic, unknown, or uncertain situation where they may not know the full threat.

Officers are trained to take control of the situation to ensure everyone's safety so they can investigate to determine what is going on and who is committing a crime if one is being committed.

When law enforcement arrives, present yourself in a calm demeanor.

Lower or even better, put away weapons prior to their arrival if at all possible.

Immediately do as the officer tells you.

Do not reach for a weapon.

If you or someone else calls law enforcement to report a situation, describe your appearance (clothing, physical description, etc.); you may also wish to tell the call taker if you have a weapon.

If you are carrying a weapon and need to tell officers that you are armed, keep your hands visible and DO NOT reach for the weapon.

Do not make sudden movements. If possible, announce your intent to do something or request that the officer allow you.

If it is dark, turn on lights if possible (interior lighting, etc.).

Be aware that an officer may decide to disarm you.

Be honest.

If you are nervous or emotional, say so and ask for a moment to collect yourself.

If you invoke your rights, be cordial. If you are able, be helpful.

Officers may wish to separate everyone or even might want to move to another location to go over what happened.

If you are unhappy about a decision an officer makes, understand that this is not the time to argue the point. The goal is to secure the situation and assess what has happened.