

Just because you have the right.....

The Bill of Rights is the name by which the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution are known. They were specifically enumerated to recognize the rights that individual citizens have versus the rights of the state or the federal governments.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution recognizes the right of the citizens to freely speak their minds. While the Right to Free Speech can, under certain circumstances, be abused (as in libel or inciting to riot), no reasonable citizen would suggest that we deny other law-abiding citizens the Right to Free Speech simply because some people can, and sometimes do, abuse that right.

Equally set forth, **the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is recognized in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as an individual right.** It should not be violated by federal or state actions. Likewise, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (which was established in the year of our national independence, 1776, thirteen years before the U.S. Constitution) recognizes “the right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state”.

Even though criminals use firearms in their nefarious pursuits, no one should ever suggest that we deny to others the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Denying law-abiding citizens their means of self-protection in no way will change the intent of criminals to do violence to accomplish their criminal goals.

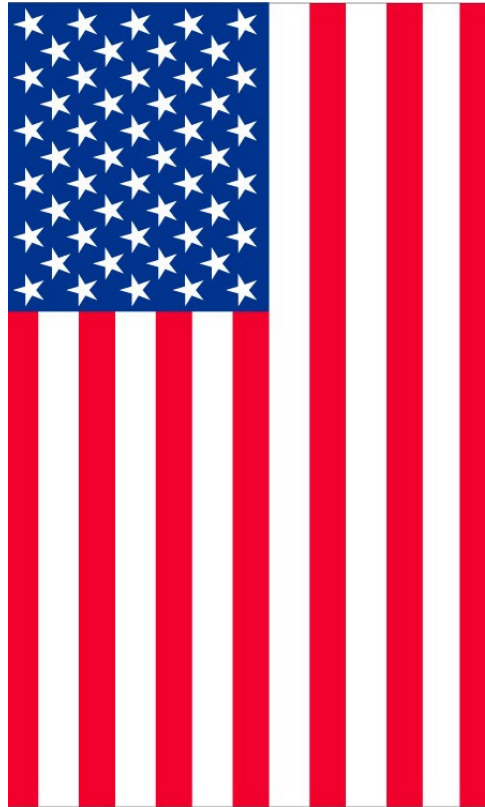
Disarming Law-Abiding Citizens Is Unconstitutional & Un-American!

* A License to Carry Firearms allows you to carry concealed or openly in a vehicle, carry concealed or openly in Philadelphia, carry concealed about your person, carry concealed in a PA State Park (concealed only), etc. There are places where all carry is prohibited, such as most Federal buildings, all court facilities, etc. Respect private property.

** www.paopencarry.org/pdfs/mpoetc_oc.pdf

*** Search www.cs.cmu.edu for “gun_free_school_zones.txt”

**** www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/165476.pdf



**The Constitution of
The United States of America**
memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/continental

**The Constitution of
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**
sites.state.pa.us/PA_Constitution.html

The Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act of 1995
paopencarry.org/uniform-firearms-act

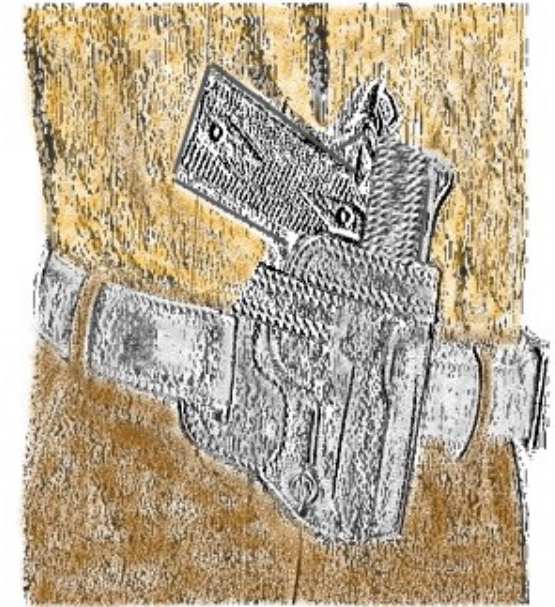
Thoroughly research the laws before carrying.

The information presented here is not legal advice. If you carry a firearm, you should personally research and know the applicable laws pertaining to where and how you may carry.

Consult a lawyer, if necessary.

(Revised 10-24-09)

I SAW A MAN WITH A GUN!



What's up with that?

The gas gauge was reading near empty, so you stopped by the quickie mart on your way home from work. While you are waiting for the tank to fill, someone pulls up on the other side of the pump. As he gets out of his car, you notice the guy has a gun! It's in a holster, on his hip, but it's in plain view. He looks up and your eyes meet. He nods and you respond in like fashion.

After paying for your gas, you just have to say something to him.....

You can't carry like that!

Well, actually, citizens can legally carry like that! -- Article 1, Section 21, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, states, "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the state shall not be questioned." While some people regularly violate this sentiment, and question this right, the laws of Pennsylvania do not prohibit the open carrying of firearms by anyone who is not otherwise prohibited from owning a firearm. It is a Right, therefore, no permission (or issued license) is required to openly carry (oc) a firearm most places while on foot, with some exceptions*.

The latest PA State Police Training material** has made this longstanding fact abundantly clear. Hopefully, this training will help to eliminate any misconception in law enforcement agencies and in the general public. **The act of openly carrying a firearm is legal... and has been since our independence!**

Even though Pennsylvania issues a License to Carry Firearms it does not proscribe a requirement to conceal the firearm. If you look at the issued License to Carry Firearms you'll see no wording to require concealment because there is no such requirement in the law. The license simply allows you to carry at places and times otherwise prohibited by law.

A License to Carry Firearms allows you to carry in your car. Having your license allows you to carry in Philadelphia (either openly or concealed), it allows carrying during a declared state of emergency, it allows you to carry in a Federal GFSZ***, and it ALLOWS you to carry on you CONCEALED—but does not require concealment, except in a State Park.

Why do you need to carry at all?

Criminals do not publicize their schedules of where or when they intend to violate your rights to Life, Liberty, and your Pursuit of Happiness. Their intentions to rob, rape, or kill you, are kept hidden until they brazenly threaten you with violence in order to obtain their criminal goals. Will you be next?

The police cannot be everywhere at all times and it is not their fault that they cannot respond instantly. Even the best police force requires minutes to respond to any call for help. Typically, the criminal event is over by the time they arrive.

For women, carrying a firearm is a very effective means of overcoming the disparity of force between themselves and an attacker. Since women's clothing is more form-fitting than men's, openly carrying a firearm, in a holster on the hip, is usually the best method for accessible protection.

While it is important to always be aware of your situation, avoiding confrontations or placing oneself in harms way, **when an assault occurs, your final means to protect yourself and your loved ones comes down to what you have at hand.** When a criminal decides they can get away with their attack, you and your family are usually on your own. Every year, tens of thousands of potential victims are able to defend their life and liberty because they legally have a firearm for personal protection****.

Responsible citizens should take personal safety, and the safety of their loved ones, seriously. Citizens who protect themselves and their families from criminal violence contribute to the overall peace and order in our society as did their forefathers.

You're going to ruin it for everyone!

Responsible citizens, who choose to exercise these rights, which are recognized by the State, should "not be questioned". While some may personally choose firearms only for hunting or target sports, or choose to always conceal while carrying, those who choose to openly and visibly carry their firearms are no less reputable or responsible gun owners because of that choice. They are law-abiding citizens.

Firearms are inert – they do nothing on their own. Simply carrying one's firearm in a holster that is openly visible to the public does not make one more dangerous to the public. The carrier is no more likely to misuse that firearm when it is openly visible than if it were concealed. However, having the firearm

visible can be a deterrent to the criminally minded. **Most criminals look for easy victims, avoiding those who can obviously protect themselves.**

Responsible gun practices dictate that the firearm is carried in a retention holster, nearly eliminating the chance it will be forcibly taken. And, whether it is carried openly or concealed, the firearm should never be removed from the holster unless you find yourself confronted by a criminal in a life & death situation.

Most gun owners, whether they carry concealed or openly, are much safer with their firearms than the average citizen is with their car on the highway. Whether they choose to carry openly or concealed, responsible gun owners should be given the respect they deserve as law-abiding citizens.

What if everyone carried a firearm?

At the heart of our free society is the concept that EVERY CITIZEN should be able to enjoy all the rights granted to ANY CITIZEN. In concept, we are not a society of the privileged few and the down-trodden many. The Constitutions of both the Commonwealth and the United States recognizes the right of EVERY CITIZEN to keep and bear arms unless, through the due process of law, they have forfeited that right by some act of criminal behavior. This follows the concept of the presumption of innocence.

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms, by law-abiding citizens, should NEVER be abridged. Our state and national Founding Fathers, in the constitutions they created, asserted this right as equal to any other right so recognized. Likewise, so should we.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is a 'Shall Issue' state. Therefore, the state 'shall issue' a License to Carry Firearms to any law-abiding citizen who is not legally prohibited. Apply for your LTCF at the office of the Sheriff in the county where you legally reside.

Furthermore, those who have a right to own firearms are recognized, in Pennsylvania, as equally having the right to openly carry a firearm most places while on foot, with some exceptions*.