



## How to Buy a Gun In Pennsylvania

### **Meet The Necessary Requirements**

The first step is to verify that you are legally allowed to purchase a firearm. The minimum age required to purchase a long gun or rifle is 18, while you have to be 21 years old to own a handgun. Another requirement is that you are not convicted of any violent crime. The law also prohibits a person who is subject to an active protection from abuse order, who is declared mentally ill by the court, or an undocumented immigrant to own a gun. Subsequent purchase after three separate DUI charges is also not allowed.

### **Find A Local FFL Dealer**

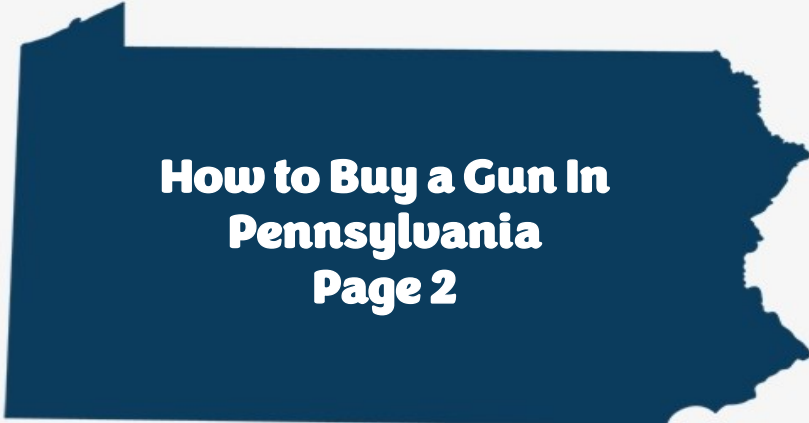
Licensed firearms dealers in Pennsylvania must conduct a background investigation on any potential purchaser through the Pennsylvania Instant Check System or the PICS. This system helps them determine if the law allows the buyer to own a gun or not. It is highly advised to purchase only from a licensed dealer, whether from a local gun shop or a gun show. We want to take every step legally.

### **Fill Out & Sign Form Government Form 4473**

After deciding on a local FFL dealer, you must fill out a form with accurate basic information. This form is the ATF Form 4473 provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives which should be accomplished inside the gun shop of a federally licensed dealer. The buyer should still accomplish this form in case of a transaction from a gun show. There was a recent amendment made to this form requiring the buyer to provide his ethnicity and race. This is to avoid a case of mistaken identity if a crime is committed using a gun.

### **Pay For The Gun & Other Fees**

The licensed gun dealer will collect an additional fee to conduct a check on the PICS on top of the gun's price. The amount depends on whether you will get a handgun or a long gun such as a rifle or shotgun. A request for a concealed carry license shall collect additional fees. The concealed carry license fee is payable to the Pennsylvania State Police.



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### **Pass The Background Check**

Pennsylvania is one of those states that require a background check for purchasing a firearm. The licensed firearms dealer or the state police will run your information through the PICS. The system will provide them with information about your criminal record, mental health history, and other unlawful activities.

The check can be accomplished in a matter of minutes at the point of sale unless the purchaser is subject to prohibitions. Before making any transfer, it is a crucial step to confirm if the buyer is legally allowed to own a gun or not.

### **Pick-Up Your Firearm**

Picking up your firearm is the final step on the topic of how to buy a gun in Pennsylvania. After meeting the requirements, paying for all the fees, and passing the background check, you can finally pick up your firearm. There is no waiting period required here compared to other states.

Keep in mind that you have to carry your weapon in plain view, which is highly discouraged by the Pennsylvania State Police. Gun owners will have to request a concealed carry license later.