

## SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (SLED) CWP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Listed below, are some of the most commonly asked questions pertaining to South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permits (CWPs). If you have a CWP question, please review this list. If your question is not answered, please contact SLED Regulatory Services. Please note that SLED Regulatory Services does not provide legal advice, legal interpretations, or legal opinions of any kind. If your question involves anything not specifically addressed in state law, you are encouraged to seek the advice of an attorney.

**Q: How do I apply for a South Carolina CWP?**

A: Most applicants must first attend required training through a certified South Carolina CWP instructor. A listing of instructors is available on the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab. Your selected instructor will help you navigate through the remainder of the CWP application process.

**Q: How long does it take to get a CWP once I apply?**

A: Although processing times vary greatly depending on current demand and type of application, by state law SLED has 90 days to process and issue permits. If you applied **more than 90 days ago** and still have not received your permit or notification advising why you have not received it, please contact SLED Regulatory Services by emailing [CWPQuestions@sled.sc.gov](mailto:CWPQuestions@sled.sc.gov).

**Q: Can I complete an online renewal even though my address had changed?**

A: No. There is no link to change your address online, and your permit is not to be renewed online if you have had any life changes, in any fashion, which differ from the information on your current permit.

**Q: How do I renew my CWP application online?**

A: From the SLED website, please click the "SLED CWPR" box in the top right corner of the home page. Please carefully read the instructions provided, and follow the prompts to renew your permit. You will not be able to apply on-line if you are applying for renewal prior to 89 days of your expiration date or if your permit has expired in excess of 60 days. **Also, you must submit a paper renewal application if any information has changed since you last applied; to include name change, address change, or telephone number changes.**

**Q: If I lost my CWP or changed any information on it (name, address, etc.), how do I get a new one?**

A: You may request a replacement CWP by completing a Duplicate/Replacement card form which is available on the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab. Please carefully follow the instructions listed on the form to ensure your request is properly processed.

**Q: I sent in for a replacement for a lost/stolen CWP. How long does it take to get one?**

A: Processing times for CWP replacements range anywhere from 45 to 90 days.

**Q: My CWP expired. Do I have to go through training again?**

A: While you are encouraged to maintain familiarity and proficiency with the firearm you intend to carry with your CWP, retraining is not mandated by state law upon expiration. However, you will need to mail in an application as renewing online is not possible if the permit has been expired for more than 60 days.

**Q: I have a South Carolina CWP and have moved out of state. What do I need to do?**

A: In accordance with state law, you must surrender your permit to SLED. You may send it to SLED CWP, PO Box 21398, Columbia, SC 29221. Please include a note indicating you have moved out of the state, and SLED will update your information accordingly.

**Q: I have a CWP in another state and will be moving to South Carolina. Can I transfer my permit?**

A: No. South Carolina law does not permit the transfer of permits from other states. You will need to attend CWP training through a certified South Carolina CWP instructor. A listing of instructors is available on the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab. Your selected instructor will help you navigate through the remainder of the CWP application process.

**Q: Where can I find a CWP application?**

A: The CWP application is located on the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab.

**Q: I am filling out my CWP renewal application to mail in but I do not remember my training information (instructor name, certification number, etc.). What do I do?**

A: This information is not needed on a CWP renewal application and can be left blank.

**Q: I am a disabled veteran. Do I need to pay the CWP application fee?**

A: **No. Disabled veterans are exempt by state law from paying the CWP fee.** Please include a letter from the VA certifying your disability, along with your application and other required documents, including a VA card showing that you are indeed **Service Connected**. There is no minimum percentage of disability required to be fee exempt.

**Q: I am a retired/former military member. What training do I need to complete?**

A: Retired/former military members must complete only the legal aspects portion of CWP training by a certified South Carolina CWP instructor. A listing of instructors is available on the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab. Your selected instructor will help you navigate through the remainder of the CWP application process.

**Q: I am an active duty military member. What training do I need to complete?**

A: In accordance with South Carolina State law, active duty military and members of the reserve, or National Guard members are exempt from all CWP training. However, you will need to submit a CWP application, two fingerprint cards, proof of military service, permanent change of station orders, a copy of your driver's license, and the required \$50 application fee to **SLED, PO Box 21398, Columbia, SC 29221**. Please check the appropriate box at the top of the application to ensure proper processing.

**Q: I am a retired/former law enforcement officer. What training do I need to complete?**

A: If you are retired from a law enforcement agency and have not maintained any type of certification/commission; or used to be a law enforcement officer who completed a state or federal training academy, you only need to complete the legal aspects portion of the CWP training by a certified South Carolina CWP instructor. A listing of instructors is available on the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab. Your selected instructor will help you navigate through the remainder of the CWP application process. If you still maintain a retired (HR-218) certification, you are exempt from training.

**Q: I am a retired law enforcement officer. Do I have to pay the CWP application fee?**

A: No. By state law, retired law enforcement officers are exempt from paying the CWP application fee. Please include a letter from the retirement/pension authority from which you receive benefits along with the application and other required documents.

**Q: I have a concealed weapon permit from another state and will be visiting South Carolina? How do I know if South Carolina has a reciprocity agreement with my home state, and exactly what are the laws pertaining to carrying or transporting a weapon through South Carolina?**

A: You may access a listing of states South Carolina has reciprocity with and the laws regarding such via the SLED website ([www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)), under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab. However, if you do not have either a resident South Carolina, North Carolina, or Georgia permit than you cannot carry concealed in South Carolina legally.

**Q: My state does not have reciprocity with South Carolina. Where can I carry a handgun?**

A: Please visit the South Carolina Legislature's website, particularly S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-20, at <http://scstatehouse.gov/code/t16c023.php> for more information on where you may carry a firearm in South Carolina.

**Q: I have a CWP. Where can I carry my gun in my vehicle?**

A: Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 16-23-20(9)(A)-(B), the weapon must be “(a) secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed trunk, or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle; however, this item is not violated if the glove compartment, console, or trunk is opened in the presence of a law enforcement officer for the sole purpose of retrieving a driver's license, registration, or proof of Insurance. If the person has been issued a concealed weapon permit pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23, then the person also may secure his weapon under a seat in a vehicle, or in any open or closed storage compartment within the vehicle's passenger compartment; or (b) concealed on or about his person, and he has a valid concealed weapons permit pursuant to the Provisions of Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23.”

**Q: Do I need a CWP to carry a Taser or pepper spray?**

A: Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 23-31-210(5), "Concealable weapon" means a firearm having a Length of less than twelve inches measured along its greatest dimension that must be carried in a manner that is hidden from public view in normal wear of clothing except when needed for self-defense, defense of others, and the protection of real or personal property. Tasers, pepper spray, and/or any other weapon not included in the definition above are not regulated by SLED. You should consult local laws, regulations, and/or ordinances for more information.

**Q: I moved my residence from South Carolina to another state, but still own property in South Carolina. Do I qualify for a non-resident CWP?**

A: Yes, you may. However, if you are no longer a resident of SC, but retain ownership of property in SC, than you will need to change to a non- resident permit. Please complete a Duplicate/Replacement form and a Real Property form (to be completed by the tax assessor). Once you have completed both forms submit them with a copy of your new driver's license and the \$5.00 fee in the form of a certified check or money order for processing. Both forms are available on the SLED website, [www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab.

A: Your training is good for three (3) years from the date of training. SLED must receive the application and required documents prior to the expiration of the training certificate. If the application is not received within the time frame you will need to complete the training again.

**Q: I live out of state but own property in South Carolina. Can I get a CWP?**

**A:** To qualify for a Non-Resident South Carolina Concealed Weapon Permit you must own real property in the state, and it needs to be registered under the SCCWP applicants' name. To qualify you must complete the SC Concealed Weapon Permit class provided by a registered South Carolina SLED certified instructor. They will assist you in completing the application and advise you on the forms required for submission. In addition to the application requirements please submit a Real Property Tax form completed by the tax assessor in the county the property is located. A listing of certified CWP instructors and the Real Property Tax Form are available on the SLED website, [www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov) under the Concealed Weapons Permit Program tab.

**If your question is not addressed above, you may email your question to [CWPQuestions@sled.sc.gov](mailto:CWPQuestions@sled.sc.gov) and we will respond to your question as soon as possible.**