

Ohio's Concealed Handgun Law

What Every Business Owner Needs to Know

It has come to our attention that your establishment has posted signs prohibiting licensed concealed carry. We have found that many businesses post signs after being misled or coerced. Many tell us they thought it was required.

As a property owner and leader in your community we know you have put a lot of thought into how to best care for the safety of your patrons and employees. We can imagine that the new Ohio Concealed Carry laws have left you with questions. The following facts may help you better understand those laws and the large community of law-abiding licensees who would like to patronize your business:

- **Concealed Handgun Licensees Are Proven Good Guys.** One must undergo a rigorous background check, be fingerprinted, and receive training on the safe use and legal ramifications of carrying a handgun for self defense by a state-approved instructor. Neither felons nor anyone with drug convictions may hold a CHL license.
- **"No Firearms" Signs Are Dangerous.** Studies show that banning legal firearms actually increases the risk of violent crime. Many criminals already intent on committing robbery and assault will target places with "No Firearms" signs because they know no one will be able to stop them. Such a sign only prohibits law-abiding citizens, including off duty police officers, from being equipped to defend themselves.
- **"No Firearms" Signs Discourage Patrons.** As "No Firearms" signs actually create a more dangerous environment, many alert consumers encourage their friends and families to avoid businesses that prohibit the lawful carry of defensive firearms on their premises for their safety. Businesses that post "No Firearms" signs are entered into our *Do Not Patronize While Armed Database* to inform all Ohioans.
- **Posting Signs Is Your Choice.** Under current law you have no obligation to post signs banning legal firearms, contrary to the spurious recommendations promulgated by some government officials and various business associations. The choice is entirely yours.
- **There Is No Liability Risk.** There is a common misconception that business owners risk litigation by allowing legal firearms on their property. Some insurance companies have even spread inaccurate information. Section 2923.126(C)(2)(a) of The Ohio Revised Code grants all businesses immunity from any action taken by legal firearm carriers. While the liability for the actions of a legal licensee generally rests with the licensee, you may be liable for injuries that result from prohibiting self-defense.
- **Legal Firearms Save Lives.** In the 48 states that allow law-abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms for self-defense, there have been numerous cases where a legally carried firearm prevented or stopped a violent attack. Competent studies have shown that over 98% of these incidents end without any shots being fired.

There is a lot of information available regarding this subject. We strongly urge you to do your own research before deciding whether or not to prohibit self-defense in your place of business. Our website (<http://www.ohioccw.org>) is a convenient place to find the most current articles and reviews, as well as links to the supporting Ohio statutes. Our discussion forums (<http://ohioccwforums.org>) offer a more interactive and in-depth way to research some of the same issues.

If you have any questions about this issue; I am at your service and can be reached through the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

