



**Your  
Complete  
Guide to  
Carrying  
with Confidence**

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**CCW INITIAL &  
RENEWAL COURSE**

# **Your Complete Guide to Carrying with Confidence**

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## **Welcome**

Congratulations on taking the first step toward responsible concealed carry.

Whether you are preparing for your initial CCW permit or renewing your current license, this guide will give you clarity, confidence, and direction. Carrying a concealed firearm is not just a right — it is a responsibility.

This guide will help you understand the mindset, safety principles, and the preparation required to carry responsibly and legally.

# Chapter 1: Understanding CCW

## What is CCW?

CCW stands for "Carrying Concealed Weapon." It allows qualified individuals to legally carry a concealed firearm for personal protection.

### **Concealed carry is about:**

- Personal responsibility
- Situational awareness
- Legal compliance
- Defensive preparedness

Carrying is not about looking for trouble – it is about being prepared to protect yourself and your loved ones if necessary.

# Chapter 2: The Foundation of Firearm Safety

Before you ever carry, you must master safety.

## **The 4 Fundamental Safety Rules**

- Always treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

These rules are non-negotiable. They apply at home, at the range, and while carrying.

# Chapter 3: Legal Basics You Must Know

Laws vary by state and county. It is your responsibility to know:

- Where you can legally carry
- Restricted locations (schools, federal buildings, etc.)
- Duty to inform law enforcement (if applicable)
- Use of force laws in your state: Key

## Legal Concepts

**Self-Defense:** The lawful use of force to stop an immediate threat.

**Reasonable Fear:** Would a reasonable person believe they were in danger of serious bodily harm or death?

**Proportional Response:** Your response must match the level of threat.

Always stay updated on your state's laws.

# Chapter 4: The CCW Permit Process

While processes differ by location, most CCW applications include:

- Background check
- Fingerprinting
- Required training hours
- Live fire qualification
- Application submission to your local issuing authority

## Tips for a Smooth Process

- ✓ Submit complete paperwork ✓
- Use accurate information ✓
- Prepare for your qualification shoot
- ✓ Keep copies of all documentation

# Chapter 5: Choosing the Right Equipment

## Selecting Your Firearm

Choose a firearm that:

- Fits your hand comfortably
- Is reliable
- You can shoot accurately
- You are willing to train consistently

# Holster Selection

A proper CCW holster should:

- Completely cover the trigger guard
- Retain the firearm securely
- Allow safe reholstering
- Fit your body type and clothing style

Popular carry positions include:

- • Appendix carry
- • Strong-side hip
- • Inside-the-waistband (IWB)
- • Outside-the-waistband (OWB)

Comfort + safety = consistency.

# Chapter 6: Mindset & Situational Awareness

The best defense is avoidance.

Develop habits such as:

- Scanning your environment
- Identifying exits
- Avoiding high-risk areas
- Trusting your instincts

Carrying a firearm does not make you invincible. It makes you accountable.

Stay calm. Stay observant. Stay responsible.

# Chapter 7: Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Failing to train regularly
- Ignoring state law updates
- Carrying without proper holster support
- Neglecting dry practice
- Overconfidence without skill development

Skill fades without practice.  
Commit to ongoing training.

# Chapter 8: Renewal & Staying Proficient

Your CCW permit is not the end of your training – it is the beginning.

Before renewal:

- ✓ Review updated laws ✓
- Practice marksmanship fundamentals ✓
- Inspect and maintain your equipment ✓
- Take refresher or advanced training

Consistent training builds confidence and competence.

# **Bonus: CCW Readiness Checklist**

**Use this quick checklist:**

- I understand my local carry laws
- I can safely load and unload my firearm
- I consistently follow the 4 safety rules
- My holster covers the trigger guard completely
- I practice regularly (dry and live fire)
- I know the legal standard for self-defense

If you cannot check every box, schedule additional training.

# Final Thoughts

Carrying concealed is a serious commitment.

With the right training, proper mindset, and continued education, you can carry confidently and responsibly.

If you are preparing for your Initial CCW Course or CCW Renewal, we are here to guide you step-by-step.

## **Ready to Take the Next Step?**

Enroll in our CCW Initial or Renewal Course today.

Professional instruction. Clear guidance.

Real-world preparation.

Train Smart. Carry Confidently. Stay Responsible.

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