



CONCEALED VS. OPEN CARRYING OF FIREARMS IN CONNECTICUT

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ISSUE

Under Connecticut law, does a person carrying a handgun on his or her person have to carry it in a concealed manner?

CARRYING HANDGUNS IN CONNECTICUT

The answer is no. [CGS § 29-35](#), which requires one to have a permit to carry handguns in Connecticut, does not specify whether the gun must be carried openly or concealed. But the Appellate Court has recognized that “[d]epending on the specific circumstances, a person who openly carries a pistol conceivably may be subject to arrest for violating several statutes, . . . even if [§ 29-35](#) does not prohibit a permit holder from carrying a pistol openly.” (*Peruta v. Commissioner of Public Safety*, 128 Conn. App. 777, 794, 20 A.3d 691, cert. denied, 302 Conn. 919, 28 A.3d 339 (2011)).

With minor exceptions (not pertinent here) anyone wanting to carry handguns in Connecticut must obtain a gun permit and carry it upon his or her person when carrying the firearm ([CGS § 29-35](#)). Failure to carry the permit on one's person is an infraction punishable by a \$35 fine ([CGS § 29-37\(c\)](#)). And carrying the firearm without having obtained a permit is a class D felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to five years and a fine of up to \$1,000, or both, with a one-year mandatory minimum sentence in the absence of mitigating circumstances ([CGS § 29-37\(b\)](#)).

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