

**SENECA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
PISTOL LICENSE UNIT  
6150 STATE ROUTE 96  
ROMULUS, NEW YORK 14541  
(315) 220-3220**

**TYPES OF NYS PISTOL PERMITS & GENERAL INFORMATION**

There are three categories listed on the application for a pistol permit under New York State Penal Law article 400. Two have subcategories.

**1. Carry Concealed**

- A. **For limited purposes** (collection or sport purposes, such as hunting, target shooting, or competitive shooting. It might also include, for example, other purposes such as that covered by number 2(B), below). This is the most commonly sought type of license.
- B. **Without restriction** (generally sought by those who wish a permit for multiple purposes including personal protection outside the home).

**2. Possession on premises**

- A. **In the dwelling of a homeowner licensee.**
- B. **Within a place of business by a merchant or shopkeeper.**

**3. Carry Concealed, with regard to employment.**

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**Carry Concealed, for limited purposes:** The application should specify all of the reasons the permit is sought. This type of license entitles the licensee to carry the weapon for the enumerated purposes, and to carry it to and from such events. Participation in a handgun safety course is not required, but is encouraged.

**Carry Concealed, without restriction:** The application must be accompanied by a separate written statement setting forth the justification for the license. The New York State Legislature authorizes approval of such a license only if “proper cause” is shown. (See also O’Brien v Keegan, 87 NY2d 436). Appellate court decisions binding upon the pistol licensing officer define “proper cause” as “a special need for self-protection distinguishable from that of the general community or persons engaged in the same profession.” Klenosky v. NYC Police Department, 75 AD2d 793, (1<sup>st</sup> Dept., 1980); see also, Bando v. Sullivan, 290 AD2d 691, (3<sup>rd</sup> Dept., 2002); Kaplan v. Braton, 249 AD2d 199, (1<sup>st</sup> Dept., 1998). If the application is accepted, the applicant will be personally interviewed by the licensing officer and, unless the applicant has extensive prior handgun experience through the military or law enforcement service, will be

required to attend a handgun safety course.

Please understand that the licensing officer is required to follow the law. Should you disagree with the “proper cause” requirement or object to its determined meaning by appellate courts, you are encouraged to contact your state legislature and urge the repeal of the requirement, or the amendment of the law to allow for a different definition of it.

**Possession within the dwelling by a homeowner /Possession within a place of business by a merchant or shopkeeper:** This type of license is generally sought for personal protection within the home or place of business. It restricts the possession of the weapon or weapons to the dwelling address or business address listed on the application. If a change should occur, an amendment will be required. The applicant will be personally interviewed by the licensing officer and, unless the applicant has extensive prior handgun experience through the military or law enforcement service, will be required to attend a handgun safety course.

**Carry Concealed, with regard to employment:** Except for self-employed individuals, the application must be accompanied by a letter from the applicant’s employer stating that licensee is required to carry the weapon during the performance of his or her duties. The letter must also include an enumeration of the duties which necessitate the license. If the applicant is self employed, a separate written statement must be provided setting forth the justification for the license. The applicant will be personally interviewed by the licensing officer and, unless the applicant has extensive prior handgun experience through the military or law enforcement service, will be required to attend a handgun safety course.

### **Additional Information**

If the applicant is seeking to be a co-registrant with a family member who currently owns a licensed weapon, the owner must complete a consent form which is available through the Pistol Licensing Unit of the Sheriff’s Department. A weapon may be registered to no more than two family members.

Regardless of the type of license, handguns are precluded from or severely restricted in certain facilities or areas. Some examples are Federal, State, County, and City Office Buildings, Courthouses, Schools, Banks, and airports. Special permits are also issued for New York City.

No additional handguns may be obtained by a licensee without first obtaining an amendment to the license. This is accomplished by application through the Pistol License Unit. Should you dispose of a weapon, you must report the transfer, and amend your license by application through the Pistol License Unit.

Any change of address must be reported on a form available through the Pistol License Unit within ten days of the change. Failure to comply is a Class A Misdemeanor.

If a licensee moves out of Seneca County, a request may, in the licensee’s discretion, be made through the Pistol License Unit to have the licensee’s complete file transferred to the new county of residence.