

SCHENECTADY COUNTY PISTOL PERMIT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Handgun Permit Requirements

Penal law §400.00 requires basic criteria to be established in order for a license to be issued, including but not limited to the following: The applicant must demonstrate:

- Good moral character.
- Have no felony convictions, nor other convictions of a serious offense.
- Absence of any mental illness or confinement to any hospital/institution for mental illness.
- Lack of good cause for denial of license.

In addition, you must:

- Be 21 years of age or older. You may apply earlier if you have been honorably discharged from the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps., Air Force or Coast Guard, or the NY National Guard.
- Have been a resident of Schenectady County for at least six months before applying. **A Schenectady County mailing address does not make you a resident. Your home must be in Schenectady County.**
- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a NYS resident. Non-NYS residents/ part-time residents must provide proof of property ownership/domicile **in Schenectady County** (such as a tax bill, utility bill, or rental agreement with proof of payment) or proof of 40 hours work **in Schenectady County**.

Please read the instructions carefully, they will guide you through the entire process. Your application MUST be filled out in BLACK INK. Do not use white out. If your application is incomplete or illegible it can be rejected and will cause delays.

Printing the Application: The application PPB-3 (6/17) consists of two pages. Print THREE double sided copies. To request more than four handguns be added to your permit, print THREE single sided copies of third page PPB-3A.

Completing the Application:

- The application must be completed in triplicate, starting with the Last Name line. **DO NOT** write above that line as those boxes are for office use only.
- It must be typewritten or neatly printed in **BLACK INK**; all signatures must be original.
- Answer all questions; do not leave any blanks.
- If you do not have a middle initial please indicate such by writing NMI (No Middle Initial) anywhere the middle initial is requested in the application and character references.
- Enter your physical home and business address – no PO boxes.
- Enter your height in feet and inches; enter your weight in pounds.
- List your four references and their addresses. Have all four references sign all three applications in the space provided.
- **Disclose all arrests and convictions of offenses, regardless of when or where the arrest occurred. You will need a certificate of disposition on each offense. You will be asked for additional information on each offense.**
- Answer all yes and no questions.

- **Provide a complete explanation for all arrests and convictions listed, and anything you answered “yes” to. Use separate paper if necessary.**
- You will need to purchase a pistol prior to submitting your application unless you are co-owning. Complete the firearm information from your receipt. If any information on your receipt is incorrect you must obtain a correct receipt before submitting. Write the name of the Dealer or name of co-registrant in “Property of” column. Please write LEGIBLY.
- You must submit three non-blurry original passport-type photos measuring 2”x2”. Photos must have been taken within 30 days, facing front, with a plain white background- NO hats or glasses.
- Photocopied images, poorly printed images, and selfies are NOT acceptable.
- Photos must be attached with GLUE, not staples.
- You must sign all three applications in the presence of a notary. Your notary must have you swear that the information is truthful, complete the full jurat, sign and provide notary information.
- **You will submit your applications and all supporting documentation when you are fingerprinted.**

Required with your Application:

1. **A notarized letter to the Judge** with a full detailed explanation of your REASON(S) and PURPOSE(S) for requesting a pistol permit, specific information on how handguns will be stored and secured while not in use, a paragraph stating where you have been employed and where you have resided for the past five years, and include a daytime phone number.
2. **In a SEPARATE notarized letter to the judge** you must disclose:
 - a. **All arrests, indictments, and convictions, including dismissals, Youthful Offender Status and Adjudgments in Contemplation of Dismissal.**
 - b. **Provide certificates of disposition and complete explanations of any and all arrests.**
 - c. **WARNING: Failure to disclose your criminal history on your application, in your letter and/or to your character references may result in your application being DENIED. You must wait one year before reapplying and will have to submit all new paperwork and repay the fees.**
3. **An original safety course certificate** showing you have completed a Schenectady County approved handgun safety course within one year of the date of submission of your application to the Sheriff’s Department.
4. **Bill of sale** that includes
 - a. Your name and address.
 - b. Make, model, caliber, serial number, and type of action.
 - c. Name and address of the dealer/store.

If it is a private sale/ co-registration, the receipt or co-registration form must show:

- a. Your name and address
- b. The make, model, caliber, serial number, and type of action
- c. The name, address, and permit number of the seller
- d. **Must be notarized**

Law enforcement officers should submit endorsed C Forms to add firearms they already own.

Character References

- You must have four character references who have known you for at least one year.
- References must reside in New York State but are not limited to Schenectady County.
- Download the Character Reference form on the Schenectady County Clerk’s website. Form must be on a single sheet, double sided (do not send a two page form).

- All four references must sign your three applications.
- **References must fill out their own forms.** In order for them to complete all questions you **must disclose all arrests, indictments, and convictions** regardless of when or where the arrest occurred. This includes arrests that did not result in conviction, including but not limited to dismissals, Youthful Offender Status and Adjournments in Contemplation of Dismissal.
- Their signature must be witnessed, not notarized.
- It is a blind reference – you MAY NOT see the reference, it cannot be submitted by you.
- While not required, it is suggested that your spouse be a reference as they will be directly impacted by the presence of a handgun in your home. If you do not have or live with a spouse, you may use one relative you currently live with as a reference.
- You may not use any other relatives or elected officials.
- You may have a law enforcement official be a character reference.
- References may be personally contacted as part of the investigation process.
- Your references will mail their own reference directly to the Sheriff's Office as instructed on the form.

Fingerprinting: The applicant MUST be fingerprinted at the Schenectady County Sheriff's Office. All references must be received before you can be fingerprinted. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL when all four character references are received and you are eligible for fingerprinting.

Fingerprinting is done BY APPOINTMENT ONLY on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30AM – 2:30PM and Thursdays from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Bring your applications, letters to the Judge, safety course certificate and any certificates of disposition.

The fee for this service is \$116.50 and may only be paid with a MONEY ORDER payable to Schenectady County. The Sheriff is not authorized to accept checks, credit cards, or cash. NO CHILDREN are allowed to accompany you while you are fingerprinted.

What Happens Next:

- You will receive written notification from the Sheriff's Department when your background check is complete.
- When the Judge completes his evaluation of your application, **YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL.** If approved, you will receive an appointment notice.
- Your appointment is with the County Clerk's Office: 620 State Street- 3rd Floor.
- Your permit will be issued at that appointment. **There is a \$10 fee due at the time of permit issuance.** If you are adding more than one handgun, there is an additional fee of \$3.00 per handgun. Information on additional handguns must have been submitted with your original application – **any guns acquired after submitting your application will require an additional appointment.**
- Payment can be made by cash or personal check payable to the Schenectady County Clerk.