

VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LICENSE TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS POLICY

Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) policy titled "**Carry Concealed Weapons License (CCW)**", is hereby revised and re-adopted as of January 1, 2026, by Sheriff Jim Fryhoff and shall constitute the policy and practices of the VCSO relating to licenses and applications for licenses to carry firearms under Cal. Penal Code § 26150, *et seq.*

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Sheriff, upon proof that the person applying is not a disqualified person, as determined in accordance with the standards set forth in Cal. Penal Code § 26202, that the applicant is at least 21 years of age, and satisfies residency or business location requirements and has completed a course of training (as set forth in this policy) shall issue to that person a **carry concealed weapons license (CCW)**. This policy will serve as the Office's written process for the application and issuance of such licenses. Pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 26160, this policy shall be made accessible to the public.

2. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

In order to be approved for a Concealed Weapons License, the applicant **must** meet the following requirements:

- a. Be a full-time resident of Ventura County.
- b. Be not a disqualified person to receive such a license, as determined in accordance with the standards set for in Cal. Penal Code § 26202(a)(1-10).
- c. Be at least 21 years of age, and presents clear evidence of the person's identity and age, as defined in Cal. Penal Code § 16400
- d. Currently own a firearm registered with the State of California (cannot be registered to spouse).
- e. Complete an application that will include substantial personal information, much of which may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.
- f. Be free from criminal convictions or other prohibiting conditions that would disqualify the applicant from carrying a concealed weapon
 - i. Note: applicants may inquire as to their eligibility to possess and own firearms prior to submitting an application by completing the "*Personal Firearms Eligibility Check*" form, which can be found at <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/forms> and submitting it to the California Department of Justice ("DOJ") in accordance with their instructions
- g. Provide fingerprints and successfully complete a criminal background check.
- h. Pay all required fees in the manner prescribed in this policy.
 - i. **Note: Fees are non-refundable in the event disqualifying information is discovered.**
- i. Complete the required training.

3. **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The application process for a CCW shall consist of four phases. The applicant shall promptly complete all requirements of one phase before proceeding to the next.

a. **PHASE ONE – APPLICATION AND INITIAL FEES**

- i. **New applicants (those who have never applied to the VCSO for a CCW), and applicants who currently have a CCW issued by another California licensing authority but are applying to the VCSO for the first time** (for example, a current applicant who has recently moved into this jurisdiction), shall fully complete a DOJ standard application form (BOF 4012, Revised 01/2024) and pay the initial fees.
 - A. Standard Application forms will be completed and submitted on VCSO's website at: <https://sheriff.venturacounty.gov>.
 - B. The VCSO will not accept incomplete applications. Additionally, California residents must provide a valid driver's license or identification card listing the current residential address. Post Office box addresses are not acceptable as a residential address. Active military personnel shall provide station orders, valid California ID Card, and a valid home-state driver's license.
 - C. Any person who files an application knowing that statements contained therein are false is guilty of a misdemeanor/felony.
 - D. Any person who knowingly makes a false statement on the application regarding any of the following shall be guilty of a felony:
The denial or revocation of a license, or the denial of an amendment to a license, issued pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 26150, et seq.; a criminal conviction; a finding of not guilty by reason of insanity; the use of a controlled substance; a dishonorable discharge from military service; a commitment to a mental institution; a renunciation of United States citizenship.
 - E. The applicant shall be required to pay an initial application fee in the amount of \$220 when the application is completed online. Fees are to be paid online and are subject to a service fee.
 - F. The balance of the local fee of \$220 shall be required to be paid online only if the application is approved. Payment must be made prior to making an appointment for license issuance.
 1. Payment of local fees may be waived if the applicant has been deputized or appointed as a peace officer by the Sheriff pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) of Cal. Penal Code § 830.6.
 - G. For the purposes of this policy, all fees are to be paid through the VCSO's website and are subject to a service fee.
- ii. **Renewal applicants who have an active CCW issued by the VCSO, and whose fingerprints and DOJ fee HAVE BEEN previously sent to the DOJ shall apply for a CCW as follows:**
 - A. Submit 120 days prior to the expiration of their license,
 - a. Standard Renewal Application Forms will be completed and submitted on VCSO's website <https://sheriff.venturacounty.gov>.
 - B. The applicant shall submit with the request their payment in the amount of \$152.00 for the renewal fees, which includes a \$100.00 local fee in addition to a \$52.00 DOJ background check fee. Fees are to be paid through VCSO's website and are subject to a service fee.

- C. License holders **who fail to submit a renewal application within 90 days of the expiration of their license**, will have to re-apply as a new applicant.
- iii. **PREVIOUSLY DENIED APPLICANTS** who's application denial was upheld during a hearing by a court, may file a subsequent application for a license no sooner than two years from the date of the hearing per Cal. Penal Code § 26206(g).

b. **PHASE TWO - FINGERPRINTING & BACKGROUND CHECK**

- i. New applicants and previously denied applicants who must submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice (those applicants subject to (3)(a)(i) or (iii), above) shall complete Phase Two as follows:
 - A. After the applicant has completed Phase One, the VCSO, or other live scan facilities, shall take the applicants' fingerprints in the manner prescribed by the Department of Justice and promptly forward them to the DOJ for processing. The DOJ requires licensing authorities use the "Live Scan" fingerprinting method. The Department of Justice will require a \$93.00 fee and the applicant may be subject to a "rolling fee" required by that particular live scan facility.
 - ii. DOJ will mail to the Department a report of all data and information pertaining to any applicant, of which there is a record in its office, including information as to whether the person is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, receiving, owning, or purchasing a firearm.
 - iii. Subsequent to submission of the application and fingerprints, the applicant will be contacted for an interview appointment (either in-person or virtually) by the investigator to determine the completeness of the application and provide time to clarify and interpret the information provided. Please allow at least 45 minutes to one hour for the interview appointment.

c. **PHASE THREE – DETERMINATION**

- i. Applicants who are approved must pay the balance \$220 which is the local fee and complete the required training in accordance with Section 4, "Training", of this policy within 90 days from the date of the conditional approval letter. It shall be the firearms instructor's responsibility to submit the original test and qualification scores by e-mail to: vcsoccw@venturacounty.gov
- ii. The issued license shall set forth the licensee's full name, driver's license number or identification number, Criminal Identification and Information number, occupation, residence and business address, the licensee's date of birth, height, weight, and color of eyes and hair, and indicate the type of license issued as it relates to Cal. Penal Code § 26220, including license issuance and expiration date, and shall, in addition, contain the licensee's fingerprints, a picture of the licensee, and a description on the weapon or weapons authorized to be carried, detailing the name of the manufacturer, the model, the serial number, and the caliber.
 - A. A "standard" license is valid for a period not to exceed two years.
 - B. A "judicial" license issued to a state or federal magistrate, commissioner, or judge will be valid for a period not to exceed three years.
 - C. A license issued to any law enforcement officer as defined in Cal. Penal Code § 830.6 (a) or (b), or a custodial officer employed by the Sheriff / Police Chief as provided in Cal. Penal Code § 831.5, will be valid for a period not to exceed four years, except that such license shall be invalid upon the individual's conclusion of service as a reserve/custodial officer.

- iii. The VCSO will also issue the standard state license printed on a plastic card. The licensee is required to always carry the license on their person when they are carrying an approved concealed firearm.
- iv. The licensee will be required to return the license upon picking up their renewed/amended licenses.
- v. The licensee shall present the license to a Peace Officer upon request.
- vi. The licensee shall notify the VCSO in writing within ten days of any change of their place of residency. If the licensee moves out of the jurisdiction of issuance, the license shall expire ninety (90) days after the licensee has moved. Proof of the change of address will be required.
- vii. A license may include any reasonable restrictions or conditions which the Sheriff deems warranted, including restrictions as to the time, place, manner, and circumstances under which the person may carry a pistol or revolver. Any such restrictions shall be indicated on the license issued.
- viii. Per Penal Code § 26195(c), the licensee shall inform the VCSO of any restraining order or arrest, charge, or conviction of a crime referenced in Section 26202. Failing to comply could result in license revocation.
- ix. The license shall be revoked at any time either the VCSO determines or is notified by DOJ that the licensee is prohibited by state or federal law from owning or purchasing a firearm, has breached any of the conditions or restrictions set forth or imposed in accordance with Cal. Penal Code § 26200, any information provided by a licensee in connection with an application for a new or renewal license is inaccurate or incomplete, or a licensee has become a disqualified person and cannot receive such a license, as determined in accordance with the standards set forth in Cal. Penal Code § 26202.
- x. If the VCSO revokes the license, the DOJ shall be notified of the revocation. The licensee shall also be immediately notified of the revocation in writing. Fees collected during the application process will not be refunded in case of revocation.

4. **TRAINING**

- a. **For new license applicants**, course shall be performed by a VCSO approved CCW instructor and be no less than 16 hours in length. The course shall include instruction on firearm safety, firearm handling, shooting technique, safe storage, legal methods to transport firearms and securing firearms in vehicles, laws governing where permit hold may carry firearms, laws regarding the permissible use of a firearm, and laws regarding the permissible use of lethal force in self-defense. The course shall include a component, no less than one hour in length, on mental health and mental health resources. Applicants will be required to pass a written examination to demonstrate their understanding of the covered topics. The course shall include live-fire shooting exercises on a firing range and shall include a demonstration by the applicant of safe handling of, and shooting proficiency with, each firearm that the applicant is applying to be licensed to carry.
- b. **For license renewal applicants**, the course shall be taught by a VCSO approved CCW instructor and be no less than 8 hours in length. The course shall meet all other requirements as described above for new license applicants.
- c. Proof of completion of the required training must be signed and submitted by the instructor.
- d. Training qualifications are valid six months from the date of the course.

- e. A list of VCSO-approved CCW firearms trainers shall be made available with each copy of the application provided by the VCSO as well as at its website at:
<https://sheriff.venturacounty.gov>

5. AMENDMENTS TO LICENSES

- a. Any licensee may apply to amend a license at any time during the period of license validity by completing and submitting a standard DOJ "Modification of License" form along with the local processing fee of \$10 payable online and subject to a service fee. The form must be submitted and paid online at: <https://sheriff.venturacounty.gov>
- b. Licensees may apply for an amendment for any or all of the following reasons:
 - i. Change the address or other personal information of the licensee.
 - ii. In the event of a damaged/lost/stolen firearm, licensee may request an amendment to add a different firearm. Licensee will need to contact VCSO for approval.
- c. In the event that any amendment to a valid license is approved by the Sheriff, a new license will be issued reflecting the amendment(s).
- d. An amendment to any license will not extend the original expiration date, and an application for an amendment does not constitute an application for renewal of the license.
- e. Applicants must bring their issued license for modification.

6. AGENCY REPORTING AND RECORDS

- a. Pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 26225, the Department shall maintain a record of the following and immediately provide copies of each to the DOJ:
 - i. The denial of a license
 - ii. The denial of an amendment to a license;
 - iii. The issuance of a license;
 - iv. The amendment of a license;
 - v. The revocation of a license.
- b. The VCSO shall annually submit to the State Attorney General the total number of licenses issued to reserve peace officers and judges.
- c. Applications, licenses, and related documents may be public records and subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

7. AGENCY QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

- a. Pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 26165(3)(b), a licensing authority shall establish, and make available to the public, the standards it uses when issuing licenses with regards to the required live-fire shooting exercises.
 - i. Live-fire Qualification
 - A. Must pass complete course with each weapon approved for carry.
 - B. Target: NRA Standard B-27 or IPSIC target.
 - C. Round Count: 16
 - D. Course of Fire: 4 rounds at each specified distance in 2 round intervals.
 - E. Time: 5 seconds at 3, 7, and 10 yards. 15 seconds at 15 yards.
 - F. Firing Distance: 3 yards, 7 yards, 10 yards, and 15 yards.
 - G. Passing score is all rounds on target, no complete misses.
 - H. The student shall be required to demonstrate the ability to safely load and unload their firearm.

8. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- a. At time of application submittal, applicant is required to provide the following documents:
 - i. Current California Driver's License with current residence on file with DMV.
 - ii. If renting or leasing, a current rental/lease agreement. The rent/lease agreement must display your name and the residence address.
 - iii. TWO (2) proofs of residency – Copies of two separate utility bills (gas, water, electric, or trash). Each bill **MUST** show the applicant's name and address.
 - A. If the applicant doesn't pay the utilities mentioned above, the following bills will be accepted: cell phone bill, cable/internet bill, bank or credit card statement, auto loan statement, W-2, medical bill, or a tax document. Each bill **MUST** show the applicant's name and address.
 - B. DMV related documents (vehicle registration, auto title, etc.) or a hunting/fishing license will **NOT** be accepted.
 - C. Photos of unopened mail are **NOT** acceptable.
 - iv. Military Veterans a copy of your DD214 (discharge document). The document **MUST** show the type of discharge (honorable, other than honorable, etc.). Please ensure your DD214 contains this information as some forms of the document to not include this statement.
- b. Active-Duty Military Personnel will be required to provide the following documents:
 - i. Valid California Identification Card pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 26155(a)(2)
 - ii. Current Home State Driver's License
 - iii. Military ID
 - iv. Current Station Orders
 - v. If renting or leasing, a current rental/lease agreement.
 - vi. Copies of separate utility bills: gas, water, or electric (2 minimum).
- c. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all required documentation is uploaded at the time of application submission. *Failure to upload any of the required documents could result in the delay or denial of your application.*

9. **FIREARMS RESTRICTIONS**

- a. VCSO currently allows up to five firearms to be listed on a license. Applicant must qualify in the caliber in which they intend to carry.
 - i. If a firearm can be carried in multiple calibers (i.e. 9mm/.40), applicant must qualify with each caliber they intend to carry.
- b. Firearms currently not allowed on licenses:
 - i. FN Five SeveN
 - ii. .22 caliber Derringers (including the North American Arms .22LR)
 - iii. .50 caliber Desert Eagles
 - iv. AR Pistols or Rifles
 - v. Anything that is a .454 Casull