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SIP TIP: OHIO'S "CONCEALED CARRY" LAW: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CONSTRUCTION SITES

On April 8, 2004, Ohio's new "Concealed Carry" law took effect. The new law permits Ohioans to apply to a county Sheriff office for a permit to carry a concealed handgun in the state of Ohio. In order for the permit to be issued, the applying individual must:

1. Pay the application/permit fee;
2. Is at least 21 years of age;
3. Has the equivalent of a 12-hour course in handling firearms (which must include 2 hours on the firing range and a written and physical test provided by a certified trainer); and
4. Not fall into a prohibited category (including a fugitive from justice, felons or those indicted for or charged with a felony or certain other crimes, those guilty of violent misdemeanors in the past three years, those subject to protection orders, and those determined by a court to be mentally incompetent).

Details on the exact requirements, including the criteria for acceptable training, are included at the Ohio Attorney General Website at: www.ag.state.oh.us/web_applications/concealcarry.

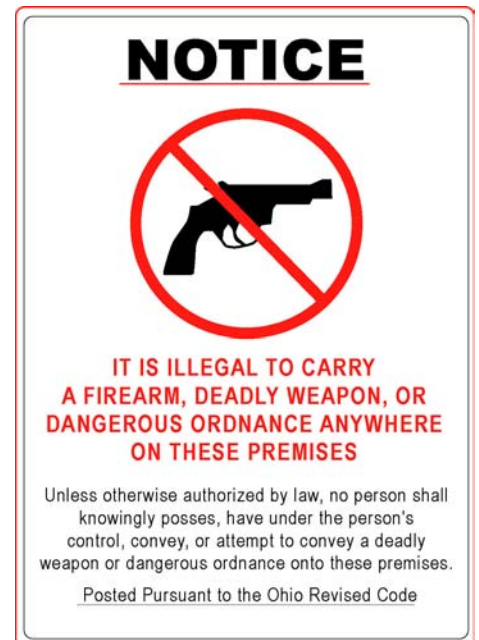
Prohibitions

The law prohibits carrying a concealed handgun at numerous places, including but not limited to: law enforcement buildings and posts, various state and municipal agencies and buildings, airport terminals or commercial airplanes, courthouses and associated buildings, places of worship (unless permitted otherwise), school safety zones, premises that dispense liquor, libraries, day care centers, places where prohibited by federal law, and **places where signs have been posted prohibiting firearms and/or concealed firearms.**

Construction Sites

The last sentence above is likely to be the part of the law that can prohibit the carrying of firearms onto any construction site (the law is not clear as to whether an otherwise prohibited facility under construction is considered a prohibited facility). In order for this to apply, the following must occur:

1. The sign must be conspicuously posted by the "owner or person in control of private land or premises" (commons sense would dictate signs at all site entrances so there is no mistake and not excuses);
2. While the language on the sign for private sites is substantially up to individual preference, the law suggests the sign illustrated here:



REMINDER: REGARDLESS OF SIGNAGE, DON'T BRING A DEADLY WEAPON TO A CONSTRUCTION SITE. IT'S NOT WORTH YOUR LIFE OR YOUR EMPLOYMENT!!