

Firearms Safety, Suicide Awareness, The Law, and You



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE



NOTE: This pamphlet contains Washington firearm laws as of the date below and may not contain all current laws. A time lag exists between new law effective dates (typically spring/summer) and the date of this publication. See the inside cover for more information.

October 31, 2022

Be Safe And Responsible Whenever Handling Firearms!

- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Unload firearms when not in use.
- Lock and Limit access to your gun; protect yourself and your family from accidents and suicide with firearms.

The laws contained in this booklet are valid at the time of printing. Changes to the RCWs can happen at any time and you are encouraged to review the most current RCWs on the legislative website (<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/>) or by contacting the Legislative Information Center (support@leg.wa.gov, 1-800-562-6000) for information related to new firearm laws.



Safer Homes, Suicide Aware is offering an opportunity to receive free locking devices for firearms and medications. (retail value \$60.)

Participants will complete a liability waiver and a survey before scheduling a time to talk to a Safer Homes representative over the phone. After talking with the representative about how to make your home safer, Safer Homes will mail the equipment to the participant.

For more information on the free locking device offer from Safer Homes, Suicide Aware please visit:

VISIT: <https://redcap.link/SaferHomes>



YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE
SaferHomesCoalition.org

Suicide Awareness

Washington hunters take their firearm safety seriously. They work at it – and the decrease in hunting accidents shows the results of this hard work. If firearm owners take this same serious approach to firearm security and suicide prevention, a similar result will occur. We truly need your understanding and support to reduce firearm suicide.

Many people do not realize that 75 percent of Washington firearm deaths from 2011 to 2021 were suicides (Source: CDC WISQARS). Firearms are the most frequently used method in suicides in the U.S.

The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) publishes this pamphlet as per state law (RCW 9.41.310). Firearms are owned for many purposes (hunting, target shooting, collecting, personal or home defense, etc.). WDFW's Hunter Education Program is pleased to present basic information not only on firearm safety but also on suicide awareness and prevention.

Do Young People Live in or Visit Your Home?

- **LOCK UP:** For their protection, do not allow children & teens unsupervised, unauthorized access to firearms.
- **LIMIT:** Only the firearm owner or designee should have access to keys and combinations.
- **CHOOSE:** Carefully select a safe storage device for home-defense firearms with fast access for only you.

Concerned about yourself, friend, or family member?

- **HOLD:** Give a trusted individual keys and combinations.
- **TRANSFER:** Ask someone to hold firearms with an emergency transfer (see RCW 9.41.113 (4)(d))
- **CALL:** 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Many suicides are preventable. Using the Forefront Suicide Prevention LEARN® steps will help support a person who is in emotional distress and considering suicide.

The LEARN® Steps:

Look for signs

- Talking, joking about death; researching ways to die.
- Hopelessness, depression, anxiety, significant loss or shame; sleep or appetite issues.
- Isolation, withdrawing from friends & favorite activities; decreased work performance.
- Increasing use of alcohol or substances; chronic pain; family history of suicide.

Empathize & listen:

- Offer compassion, not advice. Avoid judgment and accept their feelings.
- Summarize what you heard: “So, you’re feeling...(alone, hopeless). This sounds overwhelming.”
- Acknowledge their suffering, “I can see you’re in a lot of pain. Thank you for telling me.”
- Just listen. Those who are really struggling say this helped them the most.

Ask directly:

- Asking about suicide will NOT plant the idea in someone’s mind.
- If you see multiple troubling signs, ask directly about suicide.
- Ask calmly, in a straightforward way: “Are you thinking about suicide?”
- Sometimes when people feel...(alone, hopeless), they are thinking about suicide.
- “Are you thinking about suicide?” OR “Are you thinking about killing yourself?”

Remove the dangers:

- If they say yes, ask “Do you have a plan?”
- Putting time & distance between someone at risk for suicide & lethal means can save a life.
- Remove or lock up firearms and medications. In crisis, lock up belts, ropes, knives, chemicals.
- Report concerning posts on social media. Support on social media can be found at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-someone-else/safety-and-support-on-social-media](https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-someone-else/safety-and-support-on-social-media).

Next steps:

- Call, text, or chat 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or other resources below.
- If they don’t agree to stay safe, stay with them as long as it is safe for you.
- Some community members aren’t comfortable calling 911. You can call a faith leader, elder, trusted friend or family member. Call 911 only in emergency or as last resort.



www.SaferHomesCoalition.org

Firearm Safety

When a pilot flies a plane, he or she is the only one who controls the plane's safety. In the same way, firearms safety is up to you. When you pick up a firearm, you and only you have complete control to make the system safe. Include in your budget for the purchase of a new firearm, a budget for a safe storage device that will work for you.

To learn more about firearms safety, contact your police or county sheriff, a sporting goods store, or gun shop. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife offers classes and online training on hunter education which include firearms safety and handling. Take a course that also includes content on suicide prevention. Be sure to check with local sports clubs to learn about ranges and safe shooting areas you can use.

Home Safety

Many Washington residents own firearms. Whether used for hunting, target shooting or home defense, all firearms are potentially dangerous if handled carelessly. It is especially important to pay attention to firearms stored around families and friends. Media reports draw attention to accidental shooting deaths. However, suicide accounts for 75 percent of Washington firearm deaths. In 2021, suicide was the second leading cause of injury-related deaths among Washington youth ages 15-24.

Secure storage of firearms, as well as medications, is the most effective way to protect you, your family and friends from suicide. Think of these tips as general firearms safety rules:

- Learn basic firearm safety by taking a class with others in your household.
- Handle and maintain firearms in a safe and proper manner at all times.
- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- Always check the action to see if the chamber or cylinder is loaded.
- Keep your finger away from the trigger unless you are actually shooting.
- Never leave a loaded firearm unattended. Store guns unloaded and locked.
- Be especially careful while cleaning firearms. Far too many "unloaded" guns injure owners or family members.
- Prevent theft by storing firearms in a secure area while you're away from home.
- View a suicide awareness training. Locking and limiting access to firearms (and medications) is one of the most effective ways to prevent a suicide. You can find a training at www.SaferHomesCoalition.org.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education

Hunter education certification is required, with some exceptions, in order for persons born after January 1, 1972 to purchase their first Washington hunting license. To receive a basic hunter education certification, students must pass a written test and a field skills evaluation.

Washington's Hunter Education Program curriculum focuses on three broad topical areas:

- 1) Firearms and hunting safety;
- 2) Hunter responsibility and ethics; and,
- 3) Wildlife management.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife offers two types of hunter education courses that go over firearms and outdoor safety, wildlife management, and hunter responsibility.

- The traditional course is a multi-day instructor led training consisting of between 10 and 20 hours of instruction. This format is recommended for young students and people seeking a classroom experience.
- The online course is a two-part course. The online class is a student driven interactive web tool teaching the same content as the traditional course. After successfully completing the online class, students must complete a four-hour field skills evaluation class with certified instructors.

Each year, approximately 11,000 students enroll in the program, administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Volunteer instructors certified by WDFW teach classes in locations around the state. Classes in basic hunter education are in high demand in late summer and fall. Classes fill up rapidly, so students are highly encouraged to sign up early to avoid missing an upcoming hunting season.

In addition to basic hunter education, WDFW offers certification in trapper education and bowhunter education. For more information on Hunter Education, please visit our website: wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/index.html

Peace officer or military exemptions

Qualifying peace officers and military personnel may be exempt from the firearms field skills portion of the online course. For more information on who may qualify for the exemptions please visit

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/education/exemptions>.

Hunter Education Deferral

First-time hunters who would like to try the sport can defer the Hunter Education training requirement for one year to hunt with an adult who has held a Washington hunting license for the previous three years. The deferral is restricted to beginning hunters at least 10 years old and may be used only once in a person's lifetime. A \$20 application fee is required.

For more information on the Hunter Education deferral, please visit our website:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/he_deferral.html

Ten Basic Safety Rules

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire. Use your safety, but remember that safeties sometimes fail.
3. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond before firing.
4. Never place or carry a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
5. Never use a firearm unless you are familiar with how it works. If you need an owner's manual, write to the manufacturer.
6. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
7. Never cross a fence, climb a tree, cross a stream or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
8. Never point at anything you do not want to shoot.
9. Unload firearms when not in use. Store firearms and ammunition separately.
10. Never use alcohol (or drugs) before or during shooting.



Target shooting on public lands

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) strives to provide a positive recreational experience for all outdoor enthusiasts at our wildlife areas across the state. As the number of people recreating on public lands increases each year, it is important for all users to have an extra level of awareness. If you target shoot on public lands, follow target shooting best practices to enjoy safe and responsible recreation.

Know before you shoot!

Follow these guidelines to protect public safety and habitat, and prevent fire risk on public lands.

- Practice target shooting only in areas with an unobstructed, earthen backstop that can safely stop all projectiles and debris.
- Do not target shoot while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Do not shoot within 500 feet of a recreation site or across, along, or down roads or trails.
- Unless otherwise posted, do not engage in target shooting half hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise.

- Shoot at approved targets – do not shoot at trees, glass, appliances, electronics, furniture, vehicles, signs, or built structures (e.g. buildings, fences, gates, power poles).
- Do not destroy plants or natural formations.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially what lies beyond your target and backdrop. Public lands are used by many types of recreationists.
- Pack out what you pack in (shell casings, targets, and other debris).

Speak up if you see a problem!

Contact WDFW Enforcement at 1-877-933-9847 to report a violation or safety concern or Report an incident in-progress by calling 9-1-1.

Where to go target shooting in Washington

WDFW Wildlife Areas - www.wdfw.wa.gov

Most wildlife areas are open to dispersed target shooting, but it is important to find a location that complies with WDFW's firearm and target practicing rule (see [WAC 220-500-140](#)). Several wildlife areas across the state have designated shooting ranges or improved sites, including the Methow, Wenas, Asotin Creek, and Wooten wildlife areas. Contact the WDFW Wildlife Program for more information at 360-902-2515 or wildthing@dfw.wa.gov.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lands - www.dnr.wa.gov

The majority of DNR-managed lands are open to target shooting in areas that have an unobstructed backstop that can safely stop all projectiles and debris. Some areas may be designated or posted as no shooting to ensure public safety. Target shooters are encouraged to contact a DNR regional office for more information.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Lands in Washington - www.fs.usda.gov

The USFS, under direction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages land such as the Gifford Pinchot and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests. Target shooting is allowed on national forest lands unless a specific area has been closed for public safety reasons. There are no designated recreation target shooting areas on USFS lands in Washington.

Commercial Shooting Ranges

Target shooters can visit a variety of indoor and outdoor shooting ranges in Washington and help support local businesses. To find a range near you, visit: www.rangeservices.nra.org, www.wheretoshoot.org, or www.shooting.org

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands in Washington - www.blm.gov/oregon-washington

The BLM is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Interior. Most land managed by BLM allows target shooting as long as you follow federal, state, and local laws. Call your local field office for more information.

Firearm Laws

Both state and federal laws govern firearms use. The basic state code for Washington is included in this pamphlet. Many federal laws and regulations are listed in the U.S. Code. These two sources are not all-inclusive; additional restrictions can apply.

For instance, in airports the Federal Aviation Administration prohibits firearms in certain restricted areas on or about a person or accessible property (such as carry-on luggage). No private citizen – not even with a concealed pistol license – is exempt from this restriction.

Cities, counties, and municipalities in Washington may not enact firearms laws and ordinances unless authorized by state law. It is your responsibility as a firearm owner to know applicable firearm laws and regulations. Remember, no single pamphlet can list all safety information, laws, rules, and regulations.

Chapter 9.41 RCW

FIREARMS AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS

RCW Sections

RCW 9.41.010 Definitions (as amended by 2022 c 105).....	13
RCW 9.41.040 Unlawful possession of firearms—Ownership, possession by certain persons— Restoration of right to possess—Penalties.....	22
RCW 9.41.042 Children—Permissible firearm possession.....	25
RCW 9.41.045 Offenders under supervision of the department—Possession prohibited— Penalties.....	26
RCW 9.41.047 Persons found not guilty by reason of insanity and others—Possession rights.	26
RCW 9.41.049 Persons who present likelihood of serious harm—Possession rights.....	28
RCW 9.41.050 Carrying firearms.....	29
RCW 9.41.060 Exceptions to restrictions on carrying firearms.....	30
RCW 9.41.065 Correctional employees—Effect of exemption from firearms restrictions— Liability limited.....	31
RCW 9.41.070 Concealed pistol license—Application—Fee—Renewal.....	31
RCW 9.41.073 Concealed pistol license—Reciprocity.....	36
RCW 9.41.075 Concealed pistol license—Revocation.....	36
RCW 9.41.080 Delivery to ineligible persons.....	37
RCW 9.41.090 Dealer deliveries regulated—Hold on delivery—Fees authorized. (Contingent expiration date.).....	37
RCW 9.41.090 Dealer deliveries regulated—Hold on delivery—Fees authorized. (Contingent effective date.).....	41
RCW 9.41.092 Licensed dealer deliveries—Background checks.....	44
RCW 9.41.094 Waiver of confidentiality.....	45
RCW 9.41.097 Supplying information on the eligibility of persons to possess firearms, purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, or be issued a concealed pistol license. .	45
RCW 9.41.0975 Officials and agencies—Immunity, writ of mandamus.....	45
RCW 9.41.098 Forfeiture of firearms—Disposition—Confiscation.....	46
RCW 9.41.100 Dealer licensing and registration required.....	48
RCW 9.41.110 Dealer's licenses, by whom granted, conditions, fees—Employees, fingerprinting and background checks—Wholesale sales excepted—Permits prohibited..	48
RCW 9.41.111 Firearm frames or receivers—Background check—Penalty.....	51
RCW 9.41.113 Firearm sales or transfers—Background checks—Requirements—Exceptions.	51
RCW 9.41.1135 Firearms sales or transfers—Use of state firearms background check system.	54
RCW 9.41.114 Firearm sales or transfers—Denial of application report—Dealer's duties. (Contingent expiration date.).....	54
RCW 9.41.114 Firearm sales or transfers—Denial of application report—Dealer's duties. (Contingent effective date.).....	55
RCW 9.41.115 Penalties—Violations of RCW 9.41.113.....	55
RCW 9.41.120 Firearms as loan security.....	56
RCW 9.41.122 Out-of-state purchasing.....	56
RCW 9.41.124 Purchasing of rifles and shotguns by nonresidents.....	56
RCW 9.41.129 Recordkeeping requirements.....	56
RCW 9.41.135 Verification of licenses and registration—Notice to federal government. ..	57

RCW 9.41.137 Department of licensing, authority to adopt rules—Reporting of violations— Authority to revoke licenses.	57
RCW 9.41.139 Department of licensing—Eligibility to possess firearms.	57
RCW 9.41.140 Alteration of identifying marks—Exceptions.	58
RCW 9.41.171 Alien possession of firearms—Requirements—Penalty.	58
RCW 9.41.173 Alien possession of firearms—Alien firearm license—Political subdivisions may not modify requirements—Penalty for false statement.	58
RCW 9.41.175 Alien possession of firearms—Possession without license—Conditions.	60
RCW 9.41.185 Coyote getters.	61
RCW 9.41.190 Unlawful firearms—Exceptions.	61
RCW 9.41.220 Unlawful firearms and parts contraband.	62
RCW 9.41.225 Use of machine gun or bump-fire stock in felony—Penalty.	62
RCW 9.41.230 Aiming or discharging firearms, dangerous weapons.	62
RCW 9.41.240 Possession of pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle by person from eighteen to twenty-one.	63
RCW 9.41.250 Dangerous weapons—Penalty.	63
RCW 9.41.251 Dangerous weapons—Application of restrictions to law enforcement, firefighting, rescue, and military personnel.	64
RCW 9.41.260 Dangerous exhibitions.	65
RCW 9.41.270 Weapons apparently capable of producing bodily harm—Unlawful carrying or handling—Penalty—Exceptions.	65
RCW 9.41.280 Possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities—Penalty—Exceptions.	66
RCW 9.41.282 Possessing dangerous weapons on child care premises—Penalty—Exceptions.	68
RCW 9.41.284 Possessing dangerous weapons at voting facilities—Penalty—Exceptions.	69
RCW 9.41.290 State preemption.	71
RCW 9.41.300 Weapons prohibited in certain places—Local laws and ordinances— Exceptions—Penalty.	71
RCW 9.41.305 Open carry of weapons prohibited on state capitol grounds and municipal buildings.	75
RCW 9.41.310 Information pamphlet.	76
RCW 9.41.320 Fireworks.	76
RCW 9.41.325 Undetectable or untraceable firearms—Penalties.	76
RCW 9.41.326 Untraceable firearms—Exceptions—Penalties.	76
RCW 9.41.327 Unfinished frames or receivers—Exceptions—Penalties.	77
RCW 9.41.328 Imprinting a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver.	78
RCW 9.41.330 Felony firearm offenders—Determination of registration.	78
RCW 9.41.333 Duty to register—Requirements.	79
RCW 9.41.335 Failure to register as felony firearm offender.	80
RCW 9.41.340 Return of privately owned firearm by law enforcement agency—Notification to family or household member—Exception—Exemption from public disclosure—Civil liability— Liability for request based on false information.	80
RCW 9.41.345 Return of privately owned firearm or concealed pistol license by law enforcement agency—Duties—Notice—Exception.	81
RCW 9.41.350 Voluntary waiver of firearm rights—Procedure—Penalty—Exemption from public disclosure.	82
RCW 9.41.352 Voluntary waiver of firearm rights—Form—Availability.	83
RCW 9.41.360 Unsafe storage of a firearm.	83
RCW 9.41.365 Firearm security and storage—Requirements for dealers.	84

RCW 9.41.370 Large capacity magazines—Exceptions—Penalty.	85
RCW 9.41.375 Large capacity magazines—Unfair method of competition.	86
RCW 9.41.380 Safe storage of firearms expansion encouraged—No special relationship created by dealer storage.....	86
RCW 9.41.800 Surrender of weapons or licenses—Prohibition on future possession or licensing.....	86
RCW 9.41.801 Surrender of weapons or licenses—Ensuring compliance.	88
RCW 9.41.802 Proof of surrender and receipt pattern form—Declaration of nonsurrender pattern form—Administrative office of the courts to develop.	91
RCW 9.41.804 Proof of surrender and receipt form, declaration of nonsurrender form— Requirement to file with clerk of the court.	92
RCW 9.41.810 Penalty.	92
RCW 9.41.815 Surrender of weapons or licenses—Ensuring compliance—Information sharing.	92
RCW 9A.56.310 Possessing a stolen firearm	92
RCW 77.15.460 Loaded rifle or shotgun in vehicle—Unlawful use or possession—Unlawful use of a loaded firearm—Penalty.	93

RCW 9.41.010

Definitions (as amended by 2022 c 104).

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Antique firearm" means a firearm or replica of a firearm not designed or redesigned for using rim fire or conventional center fire ignition with fixed ammunition and manufactured in or before 1898, including any matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system and also any firearm using fixed ammunition manufactured in or before 1898, for which ammunition is no longer manufactured in the United States and is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

(2) "Barrel length" means the distance from the bolt face of a closed action down the length of the axis of the bore to the crown of the muzzle, or in the case of a barrel with attachments to the end of any legal device permanently attached to the end of the muzzle.

(3) "Bump-fire stock" means a butt stock designed to be attached to a semiautomatic firearm with the effect of increasing the rate of fire achievable with the semiautomatic firearm to that of a fully automatic firearm by using the energy from the recoil of the firearm to generate reciprocating action that facilitates repeated activation of the trigger.

(4) "Crime of violence" means:

(a) Any of the following felonies, as now existing or hereafter amended: Any felony defined under any law as a class A felony or an attempt to commit a class A felony, criminal solicitation of or criminal conspiracy to commit a class A felony, manslaughter in the first degree, manslaughter in the second degree, indecent liberties if committed by forcible compulsion, kidnapping in the second degree, arson in the second degree, assault in the second degree, assault of a child in the second degree, extortion in the first degree, burglary in the second degree, residential burglary, and robbery in the second degree;

(b) Any conviction for a felony offense in effect at any time prior to June 6, 1996, which is comparable to a felony classified as a crime of violence in (a) of this subsection; and

(c) Any federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense comparable to a felony classified as a crime of violence under (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(5) "Curio or relic" has the same meaning as provided in 27 C.F.R. Sec. 478.11.

(6) "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling firearms at wholesale or retail who has, or is required to have, a federal firearms license under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a). A person who does not have, and is not required to have, a federal firearms license under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a), is not a dealer if that person makes only occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby, or sells all or part of his or her personal collection of firearms.

(7) "Distribute" means to give out, provide, make available, or deliver a firearm or large capacity magazine to any person in this state, with or without consideration.

whether the distributor is in-state or out-of-state. "Distribute" includes, but is not limited to, filling orders placed in this state, online or otherwise. "Distribute" also includes causing a firearm or large capacity magazine to be delivered in this state.

(8) "Family or household member" has the same meaning as in RCW [7.105.010](#).

(9) "Felony" means any felony offense under the laws of this state or any federal or out-of-state offense comparable to a felony offense under the laws of this state.

(10) "Felony firearm offender" means a person who has previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity in this state of any felony firearm offense. A person is not a felony firearm offender under this chapter if any and all qualifying offenses have been the subject of an expungement, pardon, annulment, certificate, or rehabilitation, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of the rehabilitation of the person convicted or a pardon, annulment, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of innocence.

(11) "Felony firearm offense" means:

(a) Any felony offense that is a violation of this chapter;

(b) A violation of RCW [9A.36.045](#);

(c) A violation of RCW [9A.56.300](#);

(d) A violation of RCW [9A.56.310](#);

(e) Any felony offense if the offender was armed with a firearm in the commission of the offense.

(12) "Firearm" means a weapon or device from which a projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder. "Firearm" does not include a flare gun or other pyrotechnic visual distress signaling device, or a powder-actuated tool or other device designed solely to be used for construction purposes.

(13) "Gun" has the same meaning as firearm.

(14) "Import" means to move, transport, or receive an item from a place outside the territorial limits of the state of Washington to a place inside the territorial limits of the state of Washington. "Import" does not mean situations where an individual possesses a large capacity magazine when departing from, and returning to, Washington state, so long as the individual is returning to Washington in possession of the same large capacity magazine the individual transported out of state.

(15) "Intimate partner" has the same meaning as provided in RCW [7.105.010](#).

(16) "Large capacity magazine" means an ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition, or any conversion kit, part, or combination of parts, from which such a device can be assembled if those parts are in possession of or under the control of the same person, but shall not be construed to include any of the following:

(a) An ammunition feeding device that has been permanently altered so that it cannot accommodate more than 10 rounds of ammunition;

(b) A 22 caliber tube ammunition feeding device; or

(c) A tubular magazine that is contained in a lever-action firearm.

(17) "Law enforcement officer" includes a general authority Washington peace officer as defined in RCW [10.93.020](#), or a specially commissioned Washington peace officer as defined in RCW [10.93.020](#). "Law enforcement officer" also includes a

limited authority Washington peace officer as defined in RCW [10.93.020](#) if such officer is duly authorized by his or her employer to carry a concealed pistol.

(18) "Lawful permanent resident" has the same meaning afforded a person "lawfully admitted for permanent residence" in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101(a)(20).

(19) "Licensed collector" means a person who is federally licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(b).

(20) "Licensed dealer" means a person who is federally licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a).

(21) "Loaded" means:

(a) There is a cartridge in the chamber of the firearm;

(b) Cartridges are in a clip that is locked in place in the firearm;

(c) There is a cartridge in the cylinder of the firearm, if the firearm is a revolver;

(d) There is a cartridge in the tube or magazine that is inserted in the action; or

(e) There is a ball in the barrel and the firearm is capped or primed if the firearm is a muzzle loader.

(22) "Machine gun" means any firearm known as a machine gun, mechanical rifle, submachine gun, or any other mechanism or instrument not requiring that the trigger be pressed for each shot and having a reservoir clip, disc, drum, belt, or other separable mechanical device for storing, carrying, or supplying ammunition which can be loaded into the firearm, mechanism, or instrument, and fired therefrom at the rate of five or more shots per second.

(23) "Manufacture" means, with respect to a firearm or large capacity magazine, the fabrication or construction of a firearm or large capacity magazine.

(24) "Nonimmigrant alien" means a person defined as such in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101(a)(15).

(25) "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, club, organization, society, joint stock company, or other legal entity.

(26) "Pistol" means any firearm with a barrel less than (~~sixteen~~) 16 inches in length, or is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand.

(27) "Rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

(28) "Sale" and "sell" mean the actual approval of the delivery of a firearm in consideration of payment or promise of payment.

(29) "Secure gun storage" means:

(a) A locked box, gun safe, or other secure locked storage space that is designed to prevent unauthorized use or discharge of a firearm; and

(b) The act of keeping an unloaded firearm stored by such means.

(30) "Semiautomatic assault rifle" means any rifle which utilizes a portion of the energy of a firing cartridge to extract the fired cartridge case and chamber the next round, and which requires a separate pull of the trigger to fire each cartridge.

"Semiautomatic assault rifle" does not include antique firearms, any firearm that has been made permanently inoperable, or any firearm that is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action.

(31) "Serious offense" means any of the following felonies or a felony attempt to commit any of the following felonies, as now existing or hereafter amended:

(a) Any crime of violence;

(b) Any felony violation of the uniform controlled substances act, chapter [69.50](#) RCW, that is classified as a class B felony or that has a maximum term of imprisonment of at least ~~((ten))~~10 years;

(c) Child molestation in the second degree;

(d) Incest when committed against a child under age ~~((fourteen))~~14;

(e) Indecent liberties;

(f) Leading organized crime;

(g) Promoting prostitution in the first degree;

(h) Rape in the third degree;

(i) Drive-by shooting;

(j) Sexual exploitation;

(k) Vehicular assault, when caused by the operation or driving of a vehicle by a person while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or by the operation or driving of a vehicle in a reckless manner;

(l) Vehicular homicide, when proximately caused by the driving of any vehicle by any person while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug as defined by RCW [46.61.502](#), or by the operation of any vehicle in a reckless manner;

(m) Any other class B felony offense with a finding of sexual motivation, as "sexual motivation" is defined under RCW [9.94A.030](#);

(n) Any other felony with a deadly weapon verdict under RCW [9.94A.825](#);

(o) Any felony offense in effect at any time prior to June 6, 1996, that is comparable to a serious offense, or any federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense that under the laws of this state would be a felony classified as a serious offense; or

(p) Any felony conviction under RCW [9.41.115](#).

(32) "Short-barreled rifle" means a rifle having one or more barrels less than ~~((sixteen))~~16 inches in length and any weapon made from a rifle by any means of modification if such modified weapon has an overall length of less than ~~((twenty-six))~~26 inches.

(33) "Short-barreled shotgun" means a shotgun having one or more barrels less than ~~((eighteen))~~18 inches in length and any weapon made from a shotgun by any means of modification if such modified weapon has an overall length of less than ~~((twenty-six))~~26 inches.

(34) "Shotgun" means a weapon with one or more barrels, designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

(35) "Transfer" means the intended delivery of a firearm to another person without consideration of payment or promise of payment including, but not limited to, gifts and loans. "Transfer" does not include the delivery of a firearm owned or leased by an entity licensed or qualified to do business in the state of Washington to, or return of such a firearm by, any of that entity's employees or agents, defined to include volunteers participating in an honor guard, for lawful purposes in the ordinary course of business.

(36) "Undetectable firearm" means any firearm that is not as detectable as 3.7 ounces of 17-4 PH stainless steel by walk-through metal detectors or magnetometers commonly used at airports or any firearm where the barrel, the slide or cylinder, or the frame or receiver of the firearm would not generate an image that accurately depicts the shape of the part when examined by the types of X-ray machines commonly used at airports.

(37) "Unlicensed person" means any person who is not a licensed dealer under this chapter.

(38) "Untraceable firearm" means any firearm manufactured after July 1, 2019, that is not an antique firearm and that cannot be traced by law enforcement by means of a serial number affixed to the firearm by a federally licensed manufacturer or importer.

RCW 9.41.010

Definitions (as amended by 2022 c 105).

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Antique firearm" means a firearm or replica of a firearm not designed or redesigned for using rim fire or conventional center fire ignition with fixed ammunition and manufactured in or before 1898, including any matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system and also any firearm using fixed ammunition manufactured in or before 1898, for which ammunition is no longer manufactured in the United States and is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

(2) "Assemble" means to fit together component parts.

(3) "Barrel length" means the distance from the bolt face of a closed action down the length of the axis of the bore to the crown of the muzzle, or in the case of a barrel with attachments to the end of any legal device permanently attached to the end of the muzzle.

~~((3))~~(4) "Bump-fire stock" means a butt stock designed to be attached to a semiautomatic firearm with the effect of increasing the rate of fire achievable with the semiautomatic firearm to that of a fully automatic firearm by using the energy from the recoil of the firearm to generate reciprocating action that facilitates repeated activation of the trigger.

~~((4))~~(5) "Crime of violence" means:

(a) Any of the following felonies, as now existing or hereafter amended: Any felony defined under any law as a class A felony or an attempt to commit a class A

felony, criminal solicitation of or criminal conspiracy to commit a class A felony, manslaughter in the first degree, manslaughter in the second degree, indecent liberties if committed by forcible compulsion, kidnapping in the second degree, arson in the second degree, assault in the second degree, assault of a child in the second degree, extortion in the first degree, burglary in the second degree, residential burglary, and robbery in the second degree;

(b) Any conviction for a felony offense in effect at any time prior to June 6, 1996, which is comparable to a felony classified as a crime of violence in (a) of this subsection; and

(c) Any federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense comparable to a felony classified as a crime of violence under (a) or (b) of this subsection.

~~((5))~~(6) "Curio or relic" has the same meaning as provided in 27 C.F.R. Sec. 478.11.

~~((6))~~(7) "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling firearms at wholesale or retail who has, or is required to have, a federal firearms license under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a). A person who does not have, and is not required to have, a federal firearms license under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a), is not a dealer if that person makes only occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby, or sells all or part of his or her personal collection of firearms.

~~((7))~~(8) "Family or household member" has the same meaning as in RCW [7.105.010](#).

~~((8))~~(9) "Federal firearms dealer" means a licensed dealer as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921(a)(11).

(10) "Federal firearms importer" means a licensed importer as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921(a)(9).

(11) "Federal firearms manufacturer" means a licensed manufacturer as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921(a)(10).

(12) "Felony" means any felony offense under the laws of this state or any federal or out-of-state offense comparable to a felony offense under the laws of this state.

~~((9))~~(13) "Felony firearm offender" means a person who has previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity in this state of any felony firearm offense. A person is not a felony firearm offender under this chapter if any and all qualifying offenses have been the subject of an expungement, pardon, annulment, certificate, or rehabilitation, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of the rehabilitation of the person convicted or a pardon, annulment, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of innocence.

~~((10))~~(14) "Felony firearm offense" means:

(a) Any felony offense that is a violation of this chapter;

(b) A violation of RCW [9A.36.045](#);

(c) A violation of RCW [9A.56.300](#);

(d) A violation of RCW [9A.56.310](#);

(e) Any felony offense if the offender was armed with a firearm in the commission of the offense.

~~((14))~~(15) "Firearm" means a weapon or device from which a projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder. "Firearm" does not include a flare gun or other pyrotechnic visual distress signaling device, or a powder-actuated tool or other device designed solely to be used for construction purposes.

~~((12))~~(16)(a) "Frame or receiver" means a part of a firearm that, when the complete firearm is assembled, is visible from the exterior and provides housing or a structure designed to hold or integrate one or more fire control components, even if pins or other attachments are required to connect the fire control components. Any such part identified with a serial number shall be presumed, absent an official determination by the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives or other reliable evidence to the contrary, to be a frame or receiver.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, "fire control component" means a component necessary for the firearm to initiate, complete, or continue the firing sequence, including any of the following: Hammer, bolt, bolt carrier, breechblock, cylinder, trigger mechanism, firing pin, striker, or slide rails.

(17) "Gun" has the same meaning as firearm.

~~((13))~~(18) "Intimate partner" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 7.105.010.

~~((14))~~(19) "Law enforcement officer" includes a general authority Washington peace officer as defined in RCW 10.93.020, or a specially commissioned Washington peace officer as defined in RCW 10.93.020. "Law enforcement officer" also includes a limited authority Washington peace officer as defined in RCW 10.93.020 if such officer is duly authorized by his or her employer to carry a concealed pistol.

~~((15))~~(20) "Lawful permanent resident" has the same meaning afforded a person "lawfully admitted for permanent residence" in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101(a)(20).

~~((16))~~(21) "Licensed collector" means a person who is federally licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(b).

~~((17))~~(22) "Licensed dealer" means a person who is federally licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a).

~~((18))~~(23) "Loaded" means:

- (a) There is a cartridge in the chamber of the firearm;
- (b) Cartridges are in a clip that is locked in place in the firearm;
- (c) There is a cartridge in the cylinder of the firearm, if the firearm is a revolver;
- (d) There is a cartridge in the tube or magazine that is inserted in the action; or
- (e) There is a ball in the barrel and the firearm is capped or primed if the firearm is a muzzle loader.

~~((19))~~(24) "Machine gun" means any firearm known as a machine gun, mechanical rifle, submachine gun, or any other mechanism or instrument not requiring that the trigger be pressed for each shot and having a reservoir clip, disc, drum, belt, or other separable mechanical device for storing, carrying, or supplying ammunition which can be loaded into the firearm, mechanism, or instrument, and fired therefrom at the rate of five or more shots per second.

~~((20))~~(25) "Manufacture" means, with respect to a firearm, the fabrication, making, formation, production, or construction of a firearm, by manual labor or by machinery.

~~((21))~~(26) "Nonimmigrant alien" means a person defined as such in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101(a)(15).

~~((22))~~(27) "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, club, organization, society, joint stock company, or other legal entity.

~~((23))~~(28) "Pistol" means any firearm with a barrel less than sixteen inches in length, or is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand.

~~((24))~~(29) "Rifle" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

~~((25))~~(30) "Sale" and "sell" mean the actual approval of the delivery of a firearm in consideration of payment or promise of payment.

~~((26))~~(31) "Secure gun storage" means:

(a) A locked box, gun safe, or other secure locked storage space that is designed to prevent unauthorized use or discharge of a firearm; and

(b) The act of keeping an unloaded firearm stored by such means.

~~((27))~~(32)(a) "Semiautomatic assault rifle" means any rifle which utilizes a portion of the energy of a firing cartridge to extract the fired cartridge case and chamber the next round, and which requires a separate pull of the trigger to fire each cartridge.

(b) "Semiautomatic assault rifle" does not include antique firearms, any firearm that has been made permanently inoperable, or any firearm that is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action.

~~((28))~~(33) "Serious offense" means any of the following felonies or a felony attempt to commit any of the following felonies, as now existing or hereafter amended:

(a) Any crime of violence;

(b) Any felony violation of the uniform controlled substances act, chapter [69.50](#) RCW, that is classified as a class B felony or that has a maximum term of imprisonment of at least ten years;

(c) Child molestation in the second degree;

(d) Incest when committed against a child under age fourteen;

(e) Indecent liberties;

(f) Leading organized crime;

(g) Promoting prostitution in the first degree;

(h) Rape in the third degree;

(i) Drive-by shooting;

(j) Sexual exploitation;

(k) Vehicular assault, when caused by the operation or driving of a vehicle by a person while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug or by the operation or driving of a vehicle in a reckless manner;

(l) Vehicular homicide, when proximately caused by the driving of any vehicle by any person while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug as defined by RCW [46.61.502](#), or by the operation of any vehicle in a reckless manner;

(m) Any other class B felony offense with a finding of sexual motivation, as "sexual motivation" is defined under RCW [9.94A.030](#);

(n) Any other felony with a deadly weapon verdict under RCW [9.94A.825](#);

(o) Any felony offense in effect at any time prior to June 6, 1996, that is comparable to a serious offense, or any federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense that under the laws of this state would be a felony classified as a serious offense; or

(p) Any felony conviction under RCW [9.41.115](#).

~~((29))~~(34) "Short-barreled rifle" means a rifle having one or more barrels less than sixteen inches in length and any weapon made from a rifle by any means of modification if such modified weapon has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches.

~~((30))~~(35) "Short-barreled shotgun" means a shotgun having one or more barrels less than eighteen inches in length and any weapon made from a shotgun by any means of modification if such modified weapon has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches.

~~((31))~~(36) "Shotgun" means a weapon with one or more barrels, designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

~~((32))~~(37) "Transfer" means the intended delivery of a firearm to another person without consideration of payment or promise of payment including, but not limited to, gifts and loans. "Transfer" does not include the delivery of a firearm owned or leased by an entity licensed or qualified to do business in the state of Washington to, or return of such a firearm by, any of that entity's employees or agents, defined to include volunteers participating in an honor guard, for lawful purposes in the ordinary course of business.

~~((33))~~(38) "Undetectable firearm" means any firearm that is not as detectable as 3.7 ounces of 17-4 PH stainless steel by walk-through metal detectors or magnetometers commonly used at airports or any firearm where the barrel, the slide or cylinder, or the frame or receiver of the firearm would not generate an image that accurately depicts the shape of the part when examined by the types of X-ray machines commonly used at airports.

~~((34))~~(39)(a) "Unfinished frame or receiver" means a frame or receiver that is partially complete, disassembled, or inoperable, that: (i) Has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled, converted, or restored to a functional state; or (ii) is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as

the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once finished or completed, including without limitation products marketed or sold to the public as an 80 percent frame or receiver or unfinished frame or receiver.

(b) For purposes of this subsection:

(i) "Readily" means a process that is fairly or reasonably efficient, quick, and easy, but not necessarily the most efficient, speedy, or easy process. Factors relevant in making this determination, with no single one controlling, include the following: (A) Time, i.e., how long it takes to finish the process; (B) ease, i.e., how difficult it is to do so; (C) expertise, i.e., what knowledge and skills are required; (D) equipment, i.e., what tools are required; (E) availability, i.e., whether additional parts are required, and how easily they can be obtained; (F) expense, i.e., how much it costs; (G) scope, i.e., the extent to which the subject of the process must be changed to finish it; and (H) feasibility, i.e., whether the process would damage or destroy the subject of the process, or cause it to malfunction.

(ii) "Partially complete," as it modifies frame or receiver, means a forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture where it is clearly identifiable as an unfinished component part of a firearm.

(40) "Unlicensed person" means any person who is not a licensed dealer under this chapter.

~~((35))~~(41) "Untraceable firearm" means any firearm manufactured after July 1, 2019, that is not an antique firearm and that cannot be traced by law enforcement by means of a serial number affixed to the firearm by a ~~((federally licensed manufacturer or importer))~~ federal firearms manufacturer, federal firearms importer, or federal firearms dealer in compliance with all federal laws and regulations.

Reviser's note: RCW 9.41.010 was amended twice during the 2022 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW [1.12.025](#).

RCW 9.41.040

Unlawful possession of firearms—Ownership, possession by certain persons—Restoration of right to possess—Penalties.

(1)(a) A person, whether an adult or juvenile, is guilty of the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree, if the person owns, has in his or her possession, or has in his or her control any firearm after having previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of any serious offense as defined in this chapter.

(b) Unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree is a class B felony punishable according to chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

(2)(a) A person, whether an adult or juvenile, is guilty of the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree, if the person does not qualify under subsection (1) of this section for the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm in the

first degree and the person owns, has in his or her possession, or has in his or her control any firearm:

(i) After having previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of any felony not specifically listed as prohibiting firearm possession under subsection (1) of this section, or any of the following crimes when committed by one family or household member against another or by one intimate partner against another, as those terms are defined by the statutes in effect at the time of the commission of the crime, committed on or after July 1, 1993: Assault in the fourth degree, coercion, stalking, reckless endangerment, criminal trespass in the first degree, or violation of the provisions of a protection order or no-contact order restraining the person or excluding the person from a residence (RCW [10.99.040](#) or any of the former RCW [26.50.060](#), [26.50.070](#), and [26.50.130](#));

(ii) After having previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of harassment when committed by one family or household member against another or by one intimate partner against another, committed on or after June 7, 2018;

(iii) After having previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity in this state or elsewhere of a violation of the provisions of a protection order under chapter [7.105](#) RCW restraining the person or excluding the person from a residence, when committed by one family or household member against another or by one intimate partner against another, committed on or after July 1, 2022;

(iv) During any period of time that the person is subject to a court order issued under chapter [7.105](#), 9A.46, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or [26.26B](#) RCW or any of the former chapters [7.90](#), 7.92, 10.14, and [26.50](#) RCW that:

(A) Was issued after a hearing for which the person received actual notice, and at which the person had an opportunity to participate, whether the court then issues a full order or reissues a temporary order. If the court enters an agreed order by the parties without a hearing, such an order meets the requirements of this subsection;

(B) Restrains the person from harassing, stalking, or threatening the person protected under the order or child of the person or protected person, or engaging in other conduct that would place the protected person in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the protected person or child; and

(C)(I) Includes a finding that the person represents a credible threat to the physical safety of the protected person or child or by its terms explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the protected person or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury; or

(II) Includes an order under RCW [9.41.800](#) requiring the person to surrender all firearms and prohibiting the person from accessing, having in his or her custody or control, possessing, purchasing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, firearms;

(v) After having previously been involuntarily committed based on a mental disorder under RCW [71.05.240](#), [71.05.320](#), [71.34.740](#), [71.34.750](#),

chapter [10.77](#) RCW, or equivalent statutes of another jurisdiction, unless his or her right to possess a firearm has been restored as provided in RCW [9.41.047](#);

(vi) After dismissal of criminal charges based on incompetency to stand trial under RCW [10.77.088](#) when the court has made a finding indicating that the defendant has a history of one or more violent acts, unless his or her right to possess a firearm has been restored as provided in RCW [9.41.047](#);

(vii) If the person is under 18 years of age, except as provided in RCW [9.41.042](#); and/or

(viii) If the person is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a serious offense as defined in RCW [9.41.010](#).

(b) Unlawful possession of a firearm in the second degree is a class C felony punishable according to chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

(3) Notwithstanding RCW [9.41.047](#) or any other provisions of law, as used in this chapter, a person has been "convicted," whether in an adult court or adjudicated in a juvenile court, at such time as a plea of guilty has been accepted or a verdict of guilty has been filed, notwithstanding the pendency of any future proceedings including, but not limited to, sentencing or disposition, post-trial or post-fact-finding motions, and appeals. Conviction includes a dismissal entered after a period of probation, suspension, or deferral of sentence, and also includes equivalent dispositions by courts in jurisdictions other than Washington state. A person shall not be precluded from possession of a firearm if the conviction has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, certificate of rehabilitation, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of the rehabilitation of the person convicted or the conviction or disposition has been the subject of a pardon, annulment, or other equivalent procedure based on a finding of innocence. Where no record of the court's disposition of the charges can be found, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person was not convicted of the charge.

(4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) or (2) of this section, a person convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of an offense prohibiting the possession of a firearm under this section other than murder, manslaughter, robbery, rape, indecent liberties, arson, assault, kidnapping, extortion, burglary, or violations with respect to controlled substances under RCW [69.50.401](#) and [69.50.410](#), who received a probationary sentence under RCW [9.95.200](#), and who received a dismissal of the charge under RCW [9.95.240](#), shall not be precluded from possession of a firearm as a result of the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of insanity.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, if a person is prohibited from possession of a firearm under subsection (1) or (2) of this section and has not previously been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of a sex offense prohibiting firearm ownership under subsection (1) or (2) of this section and/or any felony defined under any law as a class A felony or with a maximum sentence of at least 20 years, or both, the individual may petition a court of record to have his or her right to possess a firearm restored:

(i) Under RCW [9.41.047](#); and/or

(ii)(A) If the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of insanity was for a felony offense, after five or more consecutive years in the community without being convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity or currently charged with any felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crimes, if the individual has no prior felony convictions that prohibit the possession of a firearm counted as part of the offender score under RCW [9.94A.525](#); or

(B) If the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of insanity was for a nonfelony offense, after three or more consecutive years in the community without being convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity or currently charged with any felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor crimes, if the individual has no prior felony convictions that prohibit the possession of a firearm counted as part of the offender score under RCW [9.94A.525](#) and the individual has completed all conditions of the sentence.

(b) An individual may petition a court of record to have his or her right to possess a firearm restored under (a) of this subsection only at:

(i) The court of record that ordered the petitioner's prohibition on possession of a firearm; or

(ii) The superior court in the county in which the petitioner resides.

(5) In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, if a person under the age of 18 years is found by a court to have possessed a firearm in a vehicle in violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section or to have committed an offense while armed with a firearm during which offense a motor vehicle served an integral function, the court shall notify the department of licensing within 24 hours and the person's privilege to drive shall be revoked under RCW [46.20.265](#), unless the offense is the juvenile's first offense in violation of this section and has not committed an offense while armed with a firearm, an unlawful possession of a firearm offense, or an offense in violation of chapter [66.44](#), 69.52, 69.41, or [69.50](#) RCW.

(6) Nothing in chapter 129, Laws of 1995 shall ever be construed or interpreted as preventing an offender from being charged and subsequently convicted for the separate felony crimes of theft of a firearm or possession of a stolen firearm, or both, in addition to being charged and subsequently convicted under this section for unlawful possession of a firearm in the first or second degree. Notwithstanding any other law, if the offender is convicted under this section for unlawful possession of a firearm in the first or second degree and for the felony crimes of theft of a firearm or possession of a stolen firearm, or both, then the offender shall serve consecutive sentences for each of the felony crimes of conviction listed in this subsection.

(7) Each firearm unlawfully possessed under this section shall be a separate offense.

RCW 9.41.042

Children—Permissible firearm possession.

RCW [9.41.040](#)(2)(a)(vii) shall not apply to any person under the age of eighteen years who is:

(1) In attendance at a hunter's safety course or a firearms safety course;

(2) Engaging in practice in the use of a firearm or target shooting at an established range authorized by the governing body of the jurisdiction in which such range is located or any other area where the discharge of a firearm is not prohibited;

(3) Engaging in an organized competition involving the use of a firearm, or participating in or practicing for a performance by an organized group that uses firearms as a part of the performance;

(4) Hunting or trapping under a valid license issued to the person under Title [77](#) RCW;

(5) In an area where the discharge of a firearm is permitted, is not trespassing, and the person either: (a) Is at least fourteen years of age, has been issued a hunter safety certificate, and is using a lawful firearm other than a pistol; or (b) is under the supervision of a parent, guardian, or other adult approved for the purpose by the parent or guardian;

(6) Traveling with any unloaded firearm in the person's possession to or from any activity described in subsection (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this section;

(7) On real property under the control of his or her parent, other relative, or legal guardian and who has the permission of the parent or legal guardian to possess a firearm;

(8) At his or her residence and who, with the permission of his or her parent or legal guardian, possesses a firearm for the purpose of exercising the rights specified in RCW [9A.16.020](#)(3); or

(9) Is a member of the armed forces of the United States, national guard, or organized reserves, when on duty.

RCW 9.41.045

Offenders under supervision of the department—Possession prohibited—Penalties.

As a sentence condition and requirement, offenders under the supervision of the department of corrections pursuant to chapter [9.94A](#) RCW shall not own, use, or possess firearms or ammunition. In addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to RCW [9.41.040](#) when applicable, offenders found to be in actual or constructive possession of firearms or ammunition shall be subject to the appropriate violation process and sanctions as provided for in RCW [9.94A.633](#), [9.94A.716](#), or [9.94A.737](#). Firearms or ammunition owned, used, or possessed by offenders may be confiscated by community corrections officers and turned over to the Washington state patrol for disposal as provided in RCW [9.41.098](#).

RCW 9.41.047

Persons found not guilty by reason of insanity and others—Possession rights.

(1)(a) At the time a person is convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of an offense making the person ineligible to possess a firearm, or at the time a person is committed by court order under RCW [71.05.240](#), [71.05.320](#), [71.34.740](#), [71.34.750](#), or chapter [10.77](#) RCW for mental health treatment, or at the time that charges are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial under RCW [10.77.088](#) and the court makes a finding that the person has a

history of one or more violent acts, the convicting or committing court, or court that dismisses charges, shall notify the person, orally and in writing, that the person must immediately surrender any concealed pistol license and that the person may not possess a firearm unless his or her right to do so is restored by a court of record. For purposes of this section a convicting court includes a court in which a person has been found not guilty by reason of insanity.

(b) The court shall forward within three judicial days after conviction, entry of the commitment order, or dismissal of charges, a copy of the person's driver's license or identicard, or comparable information such as their name, address, and date of birth, along with the date of conviction or commitment, or date charges are dismissed, to the department of licensing. When a person is committed by court order under RCW [71.05.240](#), * [71.05.320](#), [71.34.740](#), [71.34.750](#), or chapter [10.77](#) RCW, for mental health treatment, or when a person's charges are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial under RCW [10.77.088](#) and the court makes a finding that the person has a history of one or more violent acts, the court also shall forward, within three judicial days after entry of the commitment order, or dismissal of charges, a copy of the person's driver's license, or comparable information, along with the date of commitment or date charges are dismissed, to the national instant criminal background check system index, denied persons file, created by the federal Brady handgun violence prevention act (P.L. 103-159). The petitioning party shall provide the court with the information required. If more than one commitment order is entered under one cause number, only one notification to the department of licensing and the national instant criminal background check system is required.

(2) Upon receipt of the information provided for by subsection (1) of this section, the department of licensing shall determine if the convicted or committed person, or the person whose charges are dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial, has a concealed pistol license. If the person does have a concealed pistol license, the department of licensing shall immediately notify the license-issuing authority which, upon receipt of such notification, shall immediately revoke the license.

(3)(a) A person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm, by reason of having been involuntarily committed for mental health treatment under RCW [71.05.240](#), * [71.05.320](#), [71.34.740](#), [71.34.750](#), chapter [10.77](#) RCW, or equivalent statutes of another jurisdiction, or by reason of having been detained under RCW [71.05.150](#) or [71.05.153](#), or because the person's charges were dismissed based on incompetency to stand trial under RCW [10.77.088](#) and the court made a finding that the person has a history of one or more violent acts, may, upon discharge, petition the superior court to have his or her right to possess a firearm restored.

(b) The petition must be brought in the superior court that ordered the involuntary commitment or dismissed the charges based on incompetency to stand trial or the superior court of the county in which the petitioner resides.

(c) Except as provided in (d) and (e) of this subsection, the court shall restore the petitioner's right to possess a firearm if the petitioner proves by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(i) The petitioner is no longer required to participate in court-ordered inpatient or outpatient treatment;

(ii) The petitioner has successfully managed the condition related to the commitment or detention or incompetency;

(iii) The petitioner no longer presents a substantial danger to himself or herself, or the public; and

(iv) The symptoms related to the commitment or detention or incompetency are not reasonably likely to recur.

(d) If a preponderance of the evidence in the record supports a finding that the person petitioning the court has engaged in violence and that it is more likely than not that the person will engage in violence after his or her right to possess a firearm is restored, the person shall bear the burden of proving by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that he or she does not present a substantial danger to the safety of others.

(e) If the petitioner seeks restoration after having been detained under RCW [71.05.150](#) or [71.05.153](#), the state shall bear the burden of proof to show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the petitioner does not meet the restoration criteria in (c) of this subsection.

(f) When a person's right to possess a firearm has been restored under this subsection, the court shall forward, within three judicial days after entry of the restoration order, notification that the person's right to possess a firearm has been restored to the department of licensing with a copy of the person's driver's license or identicard, or comparable identification such as their name, address, and date of birth, the health care authority, and the national instant criminal background check system index, denied persons file. In the case of a person whose right to possess a firearm has been suspended for six months as provided in RCW [71.05.182](#), the department of licensing shall forward notification of the restoration order to the licensing authority, which, upon receipt of such notification, shall immediately lift the suspension, restoring the license.

(4) No person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity may petition a court for restoration of the right to possess a firearm unless the person meets the requirements for the restoration of the right to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#)(4).

RCW 9.41.049

Persons who present likelihood of serious harm—Possession rights.

(1) When a designated crisis responder files a petition for initial detention under RCW [71.05.150](#) or [71.05.153](#) on the grounds that the person presents a likelihood of serious harm, the petition shall include a copy of the person's driver's license or identicard or comparable information such as their name, address, and date of birth. If the person is not subsequently committed for involuntary treatment under

RCW [71.05.240](#), the court shall forward within three business days of the probable cause hearing a copy of the person's driver's license or identicard, or comparable information, along with the date of release from the facility, to the department of licensing and to the state patrol, who shall forward the information to the national instant criminal background check system index, denied persons file, created by the federal Brady handgun violence prevention act (P.L. 103-159). Upon expiration of the six-month period during which the person's right to possess a firearm is suspended as provided in RCW [71.05.182](#), the Washington state patrol shall forward to the national instant criminal background check system index, denied persons file, notice that the person's right to possess a firearm has been restored.

(2) Upon receipt of the information provided for by subsection (1) of this section, the department of licensing shall determine if the detained person has a concealed pistol license. If the person does have a concealed pistol license, the department of licensing shall immediately notify the license-issuing authority, which, upon receipt of such notification, shall immediately suspend the license for a period of six months from the date of the person's release from the facility.

(3) A person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm by reason of having been detained under RCW [71.05.150](#) or [71.05.153](#) may, upon discharge, petition the superior court to have his or her right to possess a firearm restored before the six-month suspension period has elapsed by following the procedures provided in RCW [9.41.047](#)(3).

RCW 9.41.050

Carrying firearms.

(1)(a) Except in the person's place of abode or fixed place of business, a person shall not carry a pistol concealed on his or her person without a license to carry a concealed pistol.

(b) Every licensee shall have his or her concealed pistol license in his or her immediate possession at all times that he or she is required by this section to have a concealed pistol license and shall display the same upon demand to any police officer or to any other person when and if required by law to do so. Any violation of this subsection (1)(b) shall be a class 1 civil infraction under chapter [7.80](#) RCW and shall be punished accordingly pursuant to chapter [7.80](#) RCW and the infraction rules for courts of limited jurisdiction.

(2)(a) A person shall not carry or place a loaded pistol in any vehicle unless the person has a license to carry a concealed pistol and: (i) The pistol is on the licensee's person, (ii) the licensee is within the vehicle at all times that the pistol is there, or (iii) the licensee is away from the vehicle and the pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(3)(a) A person at least eighteen years of age who is in possession of an unloaded pistol shall not leave the unloaded pistol in a vehicle unless the unloaded pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(4) Nothing in this section permits the possession of firearms illegal to possess under state or federal law.

RCW 9.41.060

Exceptions to restrictions on carrying firearms.

The provisions of RCW [9.41.050](#) shall not apply to:

(1) Marshals, sheriffs, prison or jail wardens or their deputies, correctional personnel and community corrections officers as long as they are employed as such who have completed government-sponsored law enforcement firearms training and have been subject to a background check within the past five years, or other law enforcement officers of this state or another state;

(2) Members of the armed forces of the United States or of the national guard or organized reserves, when on duty;

(3) Officers or employees of the United States duly authorized to carry a concealed pistol;

(4) Any person engaged in the business of manufacturing, repairing, or dealing in firearms, or the agent or representative of the person, if possessing, using, or carrying a pistol in the usual or ordinary course of the business;

(5) Regularly enrolled members of any organization duly authorized to purchase or receive pistols from the United States or from this state;

(6) Regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of target shooting, when those members are at or are going to or from their places of target practice;

(7) Regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of modern and antique firearm collecting, when those members are at or are going to or from their collector's gun shows and exhibits;

(8) Any person engaging in a lawful outdoor recreational activity such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, or horseback riding, only if, considering all of the attendant circumstances, including but not limited to whether the person has a valid hunting or fishing license, it is reasonable to conclude that the person is participating in lawful outdoor activities or is traveling to or from a legitimate outdoor recreation area;

(9) Any person while carrying a pistol unloaded and in a closed opaque case or secure wrapper; or

(10) Law enforcement officers retired for service or physical disabilities, except for those law enforcement officers retired because of mental or stress-related disabilities. This subsection applies only to a retired officer who has: (a) Obtained documentation from a law enforcement agency within Washington state from which he or she retired that is signed by the agency's chief law enforcement officer and that states that the retired officer was retired for service or physical disability; and (b) not been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of a crime making him or her ineligible for a concealed pistol license.

RCW 9.41.065

Correctional employees—Effect of exemption from firearms restrictions—Liability limited.

The exemptions from firearms restrictions in RCW [9.41.060](#) and [9.41.300](#) for correctional personnel and community corrections officers who complete government-sponsored law enforcement firearms training do not create a duty on the part of the state or local governmental entities with respect to the off-duty conduct of correctional personnel and community corrections officers involving the use or misuse of a firearm.

The state of Washington, local governmental entities, and their officers, employees, and agents are not liable for any civil damages caused by the use or misuse of a firearm by off-duty correctional personnel or community corrections officers based on any act or omission in the provision of government-sponsored firearms training to the correctional personnel or community corrections officers.

RCW 9.41.070

Concealed pistol license—Application—Fee—Renewal.

(1) The chief of police of a municipality or the sheriff of a county shall within thirty days after the filing of an application of any person, issue a license to such person to carry a pistol concealed on his or her person within this state for five years from date of issue, for the purposes of protection or while engaged in business, sport, or while traveling. However, if the applicant does not have a valid permanent Washington driver's license or Washington state identification card or has not been a resident of the state for the previous consecutive ninety days, the issuing authority shall have up to sixty days after the filing of the application to issue a license. The issuing authority shall not refuse to accept completed applications for concealed pistol licenses during regular business hours.

The applicant's constitutional right to bear arms shall not be denied, unless:

(a) He or she is ineligible to possess a firearm under the provisions of RCW [9.41.040](#) or [9.41.045](#), or is prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law;

(b) The applicant's concealed pistol license is in a revoked status;

(c) He or she is under twenty-one years of age;

(d) He or she is subject to a court order or injunction regarding firearms pursuant to chapter [7.105](#) RCW, or

RCW [9A.46.080](#), [10.99.040](#), [10.99.045](#), [26.09.050](#), [26.09.060](#),

* [26.10.040](#), [26.26B.020](#), or [26.26A.470](#), or any of the former

RCW [10.14.080](#), [26.10.115](#), [26.50.060](#), and [26.50.070](#);

(e) He or she is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a felony offense;

(f) He or she has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor; or

(g) He or she has been ordered to forfeit a firearm under RCW [9.41.098](#)(1)(e) within one year before filing an application to carry a pistol concealed on his or her person.

No person convicted of a felony may have his or her right to possess firearms restored or his or her privilege to carry a concealed pistol restored, unless the person has been granted relief from disabilities by the attorney general under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c), or RCW [9.41.040](#) (3) or (4) applies.

(2)(a) The issuing authority shall conduct a check through the national instant criminal background check system, the Washington state patrol electronic database, the health care authority electronic database, and with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether the applicant is ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) or [9.41.045](#) to possess a firearm, or is prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal law, and therefore ineligible for a concealed pistol license.

(b) The issuing authority shall deny a permit to anyone who is found to be prohibited from possessing a firearm under federal or state law.

(c) (a) and (b) of this subsection apply whether the applicant is applying for a new concealed pistol license or to renew a concealed pistol license.

(d) A background check for an original license must be conducted through the Washington state patrol criminal identification section and shall include a national check from the federal bureau of investigation through the submission of fingerprints. The results will be returned to the issuing authority. The applicant may request and receive a copy of the results of the background check from the issuing authority. If the applicant seeks to amend or correct their record, the applicant must contact the Washington state patrol for a Washington state record or the federal bureau of investigation for records from other jurisdictions.

(3) Any person whose firearms rights have been restricted and who has been granted relief from disabilities by the attorney general under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c) or who is exempt under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921(a)(20)(A) shall have his or her right to acquire, receive, transfer, ship, transport, carry, and possess firearms in accordance with Washington state law restored except as otherwise prohibited by this chapter.

(4) The license application shall bear the full name, residential address, telephone number at the option of the applicant, email address at the option of the applicant, date and place of birth, race, gender, description, a complete set of fingerprints, and signature of the licensee, and the licensee's driver's license number or state identification card number if used for identification in applying for the license. A signed application for a concealed pistol license shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the health care authority, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities release information relevant to the applicant's eligibility for a concealed pistol license to an inquiring court or law enforcement agency.

The application for an original license shall include a complete set of fingerprints to be forwarded to the Washington state patrol.

The license and application shall contain a warning substantially as follows:

CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. A state license is not a defense to a federal prosecution.

The license shall contain a description of the major differences between state and federal law and an explanation of the fact that local laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be consistent with state law.

The application shall contain questions about the applicant's eligibility under RCW [9.41.040](#) and federal law to possess a pistol, the applicant's place of birth, and whether the applicant is a United States citizen. If the applicant is not a United States citizen, the applicant must provide the applicant's country of citizenship, United States issued alien number or admission number, and the basis on which the applicant claims to be exempt from federal prohibitions on firearm possession by aliens. The applicant shall not be required to produce a birth certificate or other evidence of citizenship. A person who is not a citizen of the United States shall, if applicable, meet the additional requirements of RCW [9.41.173](#) and produce proof of compliance with RCW [9.41.173](#) upon application. The license may be in triplicate or in a form to be prescribed by the department of licensing.

A photograph of the applicant may be required as part of the application and printed on the face of the license.

The original thereof shall be delivered to the licensee, the duplicate shall within seven days be sent to the director of licensing and the triplicate shall be preserved for six years, by the authority issuing the license.

The department of licensing shall make available to law enforcement and corrections agencies, in an online format, all information received under this subsection.

(5) The nonrefundable fee, paid upon application, for the original five-year license shall be thirty-six dollars plus additional charges imposed by the federal bureau of investigation that are passed on to the applicant. No other state or local branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the issuance of the license.

The fee shall be distributed as follows:

- (a) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the state general fund;
- (b) Four dollars shall be paid to the agency taking the fingerprints of the person licensed;
- (c) Fourteen dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the purpose of enforcing this chapter;
- (d) Two dollars and sixteen cents to the firearms range account in the general fund; and
- (e) Eighty-four cents to the concealed pistol license renewal notification account created in RCW [43.79.540](#).

(6) The nonrefundable fee for the renewal of such license shall be thirty-two dollars. No other branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the renewal of the license.

The renewal fee shall be distributed as follows:

- (a) Fifteen dollars shall be paid to the state general fund;
- (b) Fourteen dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the purpose of enforcing this chapter;

(c) Two dollars and sixteen cents to the firearms range account in the general fund; and

(d) Eighty-four cents to the concealed pistol license renewal notification account created in RCW [43.79.540](#).

(7) The nonrefundable fee for replacement of lost or damaged licenses is ten dollars to be paid to the issuing authority.

(8) Payment shall be by cash, check, or money order at the option of the applicant. Additional methods of payment may be allowed at the option of the issuing authority.

(9)(a) A licensee may renew a license if the licensee applies for renewal within ninety days before or after the expiration date of the license. A license so renewed shall take effect on the expiration date of the prior license. A licensee renewing after the expiration date of the license must pay a late renewal penalty of ten dollars in addition to the renewal fee specified in subsection (6) of this section. The fee shall be distributed as follows:

(i) Three dollars shall be deposited in the limited fish and wildlife account and used exclusively first for the printing and distribution of a pamphlet on the legal limits of the use of firearms, firearms safety, and the preemptive nature of state law, and subsequently the support of volunteer instructors in the basic firearms safety training program conducted by the department of fish and wildlife. The pamphlet shall be given to each applicant for a license; and

(ii) Seven dollars shall be paid to the issuing authority for the purpose of enforcing this chapter.

(b) Beginning with concealed pistol licenses that expire on or after August 1, 2018, the department of licensing shall mail a renewal notice approximately ninety days before the license expiration date to the licensee at the address listed on the concealed pistol license application, or to the licensee's new address if the licensee has notified the department of licensing of a change of address. Alternatively, if the licensee provides an email address at the time of license application, the department of licensing may send the renewal notice to the licensee's email address. The notice must contain the date the concealed pistol license will expire, the amount of renewal fee, the penalty for late renewal, and instructions on how to renew the license.

(10) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (1) through (9) of this section, the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county of the applicant's residence may issue a temporary emergency license for good cause pending review under subsection (1) of this section. However, a temporary emergency license issued under this subsection shall not exempt the holder of the license from any records check requirement. Temporary emergency licenses shall be easily distinguishable from regular licenses.

(11) A political subdivision of the state shall not modify the requirements of this section or chapter, nor may a political subdivision ask the applicant to voluntarily submit any information not required by this section.

(12) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding citizenship or identity on an application for a concealed pistol license is guilty of false swearing under RCW [9A.72.040](#). In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, the concealed pistol license of a person who knowingly makes a false statement shall be revoked, and the person shall be permanently ineligible for a concealed pistol license.

(13) A person may apply for a concealed pistol license:

- (a) To the municipality or to the county in which the applicant resides if the applicant resides in a municipality;
- (b) To the county in which the applicant resides if the applicant resides in an unincorporated area; or
- (c) Anywhere in the state if the applicant is a nonresident.

(14) Any person who, as a member of the armed forces, including the national guard and armed forces reserves, is unable to renew his or her license under subsections (6) and (9) of this section because of the person's assignment, reassignment, or deployment for out-of-state military service may renew his or her license within ninety days after the person returns to this state from out-of-state military service, if the person provides the following to the issuing authority no later than ninety days after the person's date of discharge or assignment, reassignment, or deployment back to this state: (a) A copy of the person's original order designating the specific period of assignment, reassignment, or deployment for out-of-state military service, and (b) if appropriate, a copy of the person's discharge or amended or subsequent assignment, reassignment, or deployment order back to this state. A license so renewed under this subsection (14) shall take effect on the expiration date of the prior license. A licensee renewing after the expiration date of the license under this subsection (14) shall pay only the renewal fee specified in subsection (6) of this section and shall not be required to pay a late renewal penalty in addition to the renewal fee.

(15)(a) By October 1, 2019, law enforcement agencies that issue concealed pistol licenses shall develop and implement a procedure for the renewal of concealed pistol licenses through a mail application process, and may develop an online renewal application process, for any person who, as a member of the armed forces, including the national guard and armed forces reserves, is unable to renew his or her license under subsections (6) and (9) of this section because of the person's assignment, reassignment, or deployment for out-of-state military service.

(b) A person applying for a license renewal under this subsection shall:

- (i) Provide a copy of the person's original order designating the specific period of assignment, reassignment, or deployment for out-of-state military service;
- (ii) Apply for renewal within ninety days before or after the expiration date of the license; and
- (iii) Pay the renewal licensing fee under subsection (6) of this section, and, if applicable, the late renewal penalty under subsection (9) of this section.

(c) A license renewed under this subsection takes effect on the expiration date of the prior license and is valid for a period of one year.

RCW 9.41.073

Concealed pistol license—Reciprocity.

(1)(a) A person licensed to carry a pistol in a state the laws of which recognize and give effect in that state to a concealed pistol license issued under the laws of the state of Washington is authorized to carry a concealed pistol in this state if:

(i) The licensing state does not issue concealed pistol licenses to persons under twenty-one years of age; and

(ii) The licensing state requires mandatory fingerprint-based background checks of criminal and mental health history for all persons who apply for a concealed pistol license.

(b) This section applies to a license holder from another state only while the license holder is not a resident of this state. A license holder from another state must carry the handgun in compliance with the laws of this state.

(2) The attorney general shall periodically publish a list of states the laws of which recognize and give effect in that state to a concealed pistol license issued under the laws of the state of Washington and which meet the requirements of subsection (1)(a)(i) and (ii) of this section.

RCW 9.41.075

Concealed pistol license—Revocation.

(1) The license shall be revoked by a law enforcement agency immediately upon:

(a) Discovery by the law enforcement agency that the licensee was ineligible under RCW [9.41.070](#) for a concealed pistol license when applying for the license or license renewal;

(b) Conviction of the licensee, or the licensee being found not guilty by reason of insanity, of an offense, or commitment of the licensee for mental health treatment, that makes a person ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm;

(c) Conviction of the licensee for a third violation of this chapter within five calendar years;

(d) An order that the licensee forfeit a firearm under RCW [9.41.098](#)(1)(d); or

(e) The law enforcement agency's receipt of an order to surrender and prohibit weapons or an extreme risk protection order, other than an ex parte temporary protection order, issued against the licensee.

(2)(a) Unless the person may lawfully possess a pistol without a concealed pistol license, an ineligible person to whom a concealed pistol license was issued shall, within 14 days of license revocation, lawfully transfer ownership of any pistol acquired while the person was in possession of the license.

(b) Upon discovering a person issued a concealed pistol license was ineligible for the license, the law enforcement agency shall contact the department of licensing to determine whether the person purchased a pistol while in possession of the license. If the person did purchase a pistol while in possession of the concealed pistol license, if the person may not lawfully possess a pistol without a concealed pistol license, the law enforcement agency shall require the person to present satisfactory evidence of

having lawfully transferred ownership of the pistol. The law enforcement agency shall require the person to produce the evidence within 15 days of the revocation of the license.

(3) When a licensee is ordered to forfeit a firearm under RCW [9.41.098](#)(1)(d), the law enforcement agency shall:

- (a) On the first forfeiture, revoke the license for one year;
- (b) On the second forfeiture, revoke the license for two years; or
- (c) On the third or subsequent forfeiture, revoke the license for five years.

Any person whose license is revoked as a result of a forfeiture of a firearm under RCW [9.41.098](#)(1)(d) may not reapply for a new license until the end of the revocation period.

(4) The law enforcement agency shall notify, in writing, the department of licensing of the revocation of a license. The department of licensing shall record the revocation.

RCW 9.41.080

Delivery to ineligible persons.

No person may deliver a firearm to any person whom he or she has reasonable cause to believe: (1) Is ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm or (2) has signed a valid voluntary waiver of firearm rights that has not been revoked under RCW [9.41.350](#). Any person violating this section is guilty of a class C felony, punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.090

Dealer deliveries regulated—Hold on delivery—Fees authorized. (Contingent expiration date.)

(1) In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, no dealer may deliver a pistol to the purchaser thereof until:

(a) The dealer is notified in writing by (i) the chief of police or the sheriff of the jurisdiction in which the purchaser resides that the purchaser is eligible to possess a pistol under RCW [9.41.040](#) and that the application to purchase is approved by the chief of police or sheriff; or (ii) the state that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#), as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section; or

(b) The requirements or time periods in RCW [9.41.092](#) have been satisfied.

(2) In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, no dealer may deliver a semiautomatic assault rifle to the purchaser thereof until:

(a) The purchaser provides proof that he or she has completed a recognized firearm safety training program within the last five years that, at a minimum, includes instruction on:

- (i) Basic firearms safety rules;
- (ii) Firearms and children, including secure gun storage and talking to children about gun safety;
- (iii) Firearms and suicide prevention;
- (iv) Secure gun storage to prevent unauthorized access and use;
- (v) Safe handling of firearms; and

(vi) State and federal firearms laws, including prohibited firearms transfers.

The training must be sponsored by a federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency, a college or university, a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training, or a firearms training school with instructors certified by a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training. The proof of training shall be in the form of a certification that states under the penalty of perjury the training included the minimum requirements; and

(b) The dealer is notified in writing by (i) the chief of police or the sheriff of the jurisdiction in which the purchaser resides that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#) and that the application to purchase is approved by the chief of police or sheriff; or (ii) the state that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#), as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section; or

(c) The requirements or time periods in RCW [9.41.092](#) have been satisfied.

(3)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, in determining whether the purchaser meets the requirements of RCW [9.41.040](#), the chief of police or sheriff, or the designee of either, shall check with the national instant criminal background check system, provided for by the Brady handgun violence prevention act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 921 et seq.), the Washington state patrol electronic database, the health care authority electronic database, and with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether the applicant is ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm.

(b) The state, through the legislature or initiative process, may enact a statewide firearms background check system equivalent to, or more comprehensive than, the check required by (a) of this subsection to determine that a purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#). Once a state system is established, a dealer shall use the state system and national instant criminal background check system, provided for by the Brady handgun violence prevention act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 921 et seq.), to make criminal background checks of applicants to purchase firearms.

(4) In any case under this section where the applicant has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor, the dealer shall hold the delivery of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle until the warrant for arrest is served and satisfied by appropriate court appearance. The local jurisdiction for purposes of the sale, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section, shall confirm the existence of outstanding warrants within seventy-two hours after notification of the application to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle is received. The local jurisdiction shall also immediately confirm the satisfaction of the warrant on request of the dealer so that the hold may be released if the warrant was for an offense other than an offense making a person ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm.

(5) In any case where the chief or sheriff of the local jurisdiction, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section, has reasonable grounds based on the following circumstances: (a) Open criminal charges, (b) pending criminal proceedings, (c) pending commitment proceedings, (d) an outstanding warrant for

an offense making a person ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm, or (e) an arrest for an offense making a person ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm, if the records of disposition have not yet been reported or entered sufficiently to determine eligibility to purchase a firearm, the local jurisdiction or the state may hold the sale and delivery of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle up to thirty days in order to confirm existing records in this state or elsewhere. After thirty days, the hold will be lifted unless an extension of the thirty days is approved by a local district court, superior court, or municipal court for good cause shown. A dealer shall be notified of each hold placed on the sale by local law enforcement or the state and of any application to the court for additional hold period to confirm records or confirm the identity of the applicant.

(6)(a) At the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, the purchaser shall sign in triplicate and deliver to the dealer an application containing:

- (i) His or her full name, residential address, date and place of birth, race, and gender;
- (ii) The date and hour of the application;
- (iii) The applicant's driver's license number or state identification card number;
- (iv) A description of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle including the make, model, caliber and manufacturer's number if available at the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle. If the manufacturer's number is not available at the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, the application may be processed, but delivery of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle to the purchaser may not occur unless the manufacturer's number is recorded on the application by the dealer and transmitted to the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county in which the purchaser resides, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section;
- (v) A statement that the purchaser is eligible to purchase and possess a firearm under state and federal law; and
- (vi) If purchasing a semiautomatic assault rifle, a statement by the applicant under penalty of perjury that the applicant has completed a recognized firearm safety training program within the last five years, as required by subsection (2) of this section.

(b) The application shall contain two warnings substantially stated as follows:

- (i) CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. State permission to purchase a firearm is not a defense to a federal prosecution; and
- (ii) CAUTION: The presence of a firearm in the home has been associated with an increased risk of death to self and others, including an increased risk of suicide, death during domestic violence incidents, and unintentional deaths to children and others.

The purchaser shall be given a copy of the department of fish and wildlife pamphlet on the legal limits of the use of firearms and firearms safety.

(c) The dealer shall, by the end of the business day, sign and attach his or her address and deliver a copy of the application and such other documentation as required under subsections (1) and (2) of this section to the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county of which the purchaser is a resident, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section. The triplicate shall be retained by the dealer for six years. The dealer shall deliver the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle to the purchaser following the period of time specified in this chapter unless the dealer is notified of an investigative hold under subsection (5) of this section in writing by the chief of police of the municipality, the sheriff of the county, or the state, whichever is applicable, or of the denial of the purchaser's application to purchase and the grounds thereof. The application shall not be denied unless the purchaser is not eligible to purchase or possess the firearm under state or federal law.

(d) The chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section, shall retain or destroy applications to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle in accordance with the requirements of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922.

(7)(a) To help offset the administrative costs of implementing this section as it relates to new requirements for semiautomatic assault rifles, the department of licensing may require the dealer to charge each semiautomatic assault rifle purchaser or transferee a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars, except that the fee may be adjusted at the beginning of each biennium to levels not to exceed the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers, CPI-W, or a successor index, for the previous biennium as calculated by the United States department of labor.

(b) The fee under (a) of this subsection shall be no more than is necessary to fund the following:

(i) The state for the cost of meeting its obligations under this section;

(ii) The health care authority, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities for state-mandated costs resulting from the reporting requirements imposed by RCW [9.41.097](#)(1); and

(iii) Local law enforcement agencies for state-mandated local costs resulting from the requirements set forth under RCW [9.41.090](#) and this section.

(8) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding identity or eligibility requirements on the application to purchase a firearm is guilty of false swearing under RCW [9A.72.040](#).

(9) This section does not apply to sales to licensed dealers for resale or to the sale of antique firearms.

Contingent expiration date—2019 c 244: "(1) Section 1, chapter 244, Laws of 2019 expires June 30, 2022, if the contingency in subsection (2) of this section does not occur by December 31, 2021, as determined by the Washington state patrol.

(2) Section 1, chapter 244, Laws of 2019 expires six months after the date on which the Washington state patrol determines that a single point of contact firearm

background check system, for purposes of the federal Brady handgun violence prevention act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 921 et seq.), is operational in the state.

(3) If section 1, chapter 244, Laws of 2019 expires pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the Washington state patrol must provide written notice of the expiration to the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the Washington state patrol."

RCW 9.41.090

Dealer deliveries regulated—Hold on delivery—Fees authorized. (Contingent effective date.)

(1) In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, no dealer may deliver a pistol to the purchaser thereof until:

(a) The purchaser produces a valid concealed pistol license and the dealer has recorded the purchaser's name, license number, and issuing agency, such record to be made in triplicate and processed as provided in subsection (6) of this section. For purposes of this subsection (1)(a), a "valid concealed pistol license" does not include a temporary emergency license, and does not include any license issued before July 1, 1996, unless the issuing agency conducted a records search for disqualifying crimes under RCW [9.41.070](#) at the time of issuance;

(b) The dealer is notified in writing by (i) the chief of police or the sheriff of the jurisdiction in which the purchaser resides that the purchaser is eligible to possess a pistol under RCW [9.41.040](#) and that the application to purchase is approved by the chief of police or sheriff; or (ii) the state that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#), as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section; or

(c) The requirements or time periods in RCW [9.41.092](#) have been satisfied.

(2) In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, no dealer may deliver a semiautomatic assault rifle to the purchaser thereof until:

(a) The purchaser provides proof that he or she has completed a recognized firearm safety training program within the last five years that, at a minimum, includes instruction on:

(i) Basic firearms safety rules;

(ii) Firearms and children, including secure gun storage and talking to children about gun safety;

(iii) Firearms and suicide prevention;

(iv) Secure gun storage to prevent unauthorized access and use;

(v) Safe handling of firearms; and

(vi) State and federal firearms laws, including prohibited firearms transfers.

The training must be sponsored by a federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency, a college or university, a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training, or a firearms training school with instructors certified by a nationally recognized organization that customarily offers firearms training. The proof of training shall be in the form of a certification that

states under the penalty of perjury the training included the minimum requirements; and

(b) The dealer is notified in writing by (i) the chief of police or the sheriff of the jurisdiction in which the purchaser resides that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#) and that the application to purchase is approved by the chief of police or sheriff; or (ii) the state that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#), as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section; or

(c) The requirements or time periods in RCW [9.41.092](#) have been satisfied.

(3)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, in determining whether the purchaser meets the requirements of RCW [9.41.040](#), the chief of police or sheriff, or the designee of either, shall check with the national crime information center, including the national instant criminal background check system, provided for by the Brady handgun violence prevention act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 921 et seq.), the Washington state patrol electronic database, the health care authority electronic database, and with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether the applicant is ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm.

(b) The state, through the legislature or initiative process, may enact a statewide firearms background check system equivalent to, or more comprehensive than, the check required by (a) of this subsection to determine that a purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#). Once a state system is established, a dealer shall use the state system and national instant criminal background check system, provided for by the Brady handgun violence prevention act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 921 et seq.), to make criminal background checks of applicants to purchase firearms.

(4) In any case under this section where the applicant has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor, the dealer shall hold the delivery of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle until the warrant for arrest is served and satisfied by appropriate court appearance. The local jurisdiction for purposes of the sale, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section, shall confirm the existence of outstanding warrants within seventy-two hours after notification of the application to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle is received. The local jurisdiction shall also immediately confirm the satisfaction of the warrant on request of the dealer so that the hold may be released if the warrant was for an offense other than an offense making a person ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm.

(5) In any case where the chief or sheriff of the local jurisdiction, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section, has reasonable grounds based on the following circumstances: (a) Open criminal charges, (b) pending criminal proceedings, (c) pending commitment proceedings, (d) an outstanding warrant for an offense making a person ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm, or (e) an arrest for an offense making a person ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm, if the records of disposition have not yet been reported or entered sufficiently to determine eligibility to purchase a firearm, the local jurisdiction or the state may hold the sale and delivery of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle up to thirty days in order to confirm existing records in

this state or elsewhere. After thirty days, the hold will be lifted unless an extension of the thirty days is approved by a local district court, superior court, or municipal court for good cause shown. A dealer shall be notified of each hold placed on the sale by local law enforcement or the state and of any application to the court for additional hold period to confirm records or confirm the identity of the applicant.

(6)(a) At the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, the purchaser shall sign in triplicate and deliver to the dealer an application containing:

- (i) His or her full name, residential address, date and place of birth, race, and gender;
- (ii) The date and hour of the application;
- (iii) The applicant's driver's license number or state identification card number;
- (iv) A description of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle including the make, model, caliber and manufacturer's number if available at the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle. If the manufacturer's number is not available at the time of applying for the purchase of a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, the application may be processed, but delivery of the pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle to the purchaser may not occur unless the manufacturer's number is recorded on the application by the dealer and transmitted to the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county in which the purchaser resides, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section;
- (v) A statement that the purchaser is eligible to purchase and possess a firearm under state and federal law; and
- (vi) If purchasing a semiautomatic assault rifle, a statement by the applicant under penalty of perjury that the applicant has completed a recognized firearm safety training program within the last five years, as required by subsection (2) of this section.

(b) The application shall contain two warnings substantially stated as follows:

- (i) CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. State permission to purchase a firearm is not a defense to a federal prosecution; and
- (ii) CAUTION: The presence of a firearm in the home has been associated with an increased risk of death to self and others, including an increased risk of suicide, death during domestic violence incidents, and unintentional deaths to children and others.

The purchaser shall be given a copy of the department of fish and wildlife pamphlet on the legal limits of the use of firearms and firearms safety.

(c) The dealer shall, by the end of the business day, sign and attach his or her address and deliver a copy of the application and such other documentation as required under subsections (1) and (2) of this section to the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county of which the purchaser is a resident, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section. The triplicate shall be retained by the dealer for six years. The dealer shall deliver the pistol or semiautomatic assault

rifle to the purchaser following the period of time specified in this chapter unless the dealer is notified of an investigative hold under subsection (5) of this section in writing by the chief of police of the municipality, the sheriff of the county, or the state, whichever is applicable, or of the denial of the purchaser's application to purchase and the grounds thereof. The application shall not be denied unless the purchaser is not eligible to purchase or possess the firearm under state or federal law.

(d) The chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county, or the state pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this section, shall retain or destroy applications to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle in accordance with the requirements of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922.

(7)(a) To help offset the administrative costs of implementing this section as it relates to new requirements for semiautomatic assault rifles, the department of licensing may require the dealer to charge each semiautomatic assault rifle purchaser or transferee a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars, except that the fee may be adjusted at the beginning of each biennium to levels not to exceed the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers, CPI-W, or a successor index, for the previous biennium as calculated by the United States department of labor.

(b) The fee under (a) of this subsection shall be no more than is necessary to fund the following:

- (i) The state for the cost of meeting its obligations under this section;
- (ii) The health care authority, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities for state-mandated costs resulting from the reporting requirements imposed by RCW [9.41.097](#)(1); and
- (iii) Local law enforcement agencies for state-mandated local costs resulting from the requirements set forth under RCW [9.41.090](#) and this section.

(8) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding identity or eligibility requirements on the application to purchase a firearm is guilty of false swearing under RCW [9A.72.040](#).

(9) This section does not apply to sales to licensed dealers for resale or to the sale of antique firearms.

RCW 9.41.092

Licensed dealer deliveries—Background checks.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter and except for semiautomatic assault rifles under subsection (2) of this section, a licensed dealer may not deliver any firearm to a purchaser or transferee until the earlier of:

(a) The results of all required background checks are known and the purchaser or transferee (i) is not prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm under federal or state law and (ii) does not have a voluntary waiver of firearm rights currently in effect; or

(b) Ten business days have elapsed from the date the licensed dealer requested the background check. However, for sales and transfers of pistols if the purchaser or

transferee does not have a valid permanent Washington driver's license or state identification card or has not been a resident of the state for the previous consecutive ninety days, then the time period in this subsection shall be extended from ten business days to sixty days.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a licensed dealer may not deliver a semiautomatic assault rifle to a purchaser or transferee until ten business days have elapsed from the date of the purchase application or, in the case of a transfer, ten business days have elapsed from the date a background check is initiated.

RCW 9.41.094

Waiver of confidentiality.

A signed application to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the health care authority, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities release, to an inquiring court or law enforcement agency, information relevant to the applicant's eligibility to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle to an inquiring court or law enforcement agency.

RCW 9.41.097

Supplying information on the eligibility of persons to possess firearms, purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, or be issued a concealed pistol license.

(1) The health care authority, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities shall, upon request of a court, law enforcement agency, or the state, supply such relevant information as is necessary to determine the eligibility of a person to possess a firearm or to be issued a concealed pistol license under RCW [9.41.070](#) or to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle under RCW [9.41.090](#).

(2) Mental health information received by: (a) The department of licensing pursuant to RCW [9.41.047](#) or [9.41.173](#); (b) an issuing authority pursuant to RCW [9.41.047](#) or [9.41.070](#); (c) a chief of police or sheriff pursuant to RCW [9.41.090](#) or [9.41.173](#); (d) a court or law enforcement agency pursuant to subsection (1) of this section; or (e) the state pursuant to RCW [9.41.090](#), shall not be disclosed except as provided in RCW [42.56.240](#)(4).

RCW 9.41.0975

Officials and agencies—Immunity, writ of mandamus.

(1) The state, local governmental entities, any public or private agency, and the employees of any state or local governmental entity or public or private agency, acting in good faith, are immune from liability:

(a) For failure to prevent the sale or transfer of a firearm to a person whose receipt or possession of the firearm is unlawful;

(b) For preventing the sale or transfer of a firearm to a person who may lawfully receive or possess a firearm;

(c) For issuing a concealed pistol license or alien firearm license to a person ineligible for such a license;

- (d) For failing to issue a concealed pistol license or alien firearm license to a person eligible for such a license;
 - (e) For revoking or failing to revoke an issued concealed pistol license or alien firearm license;
 - (f) For errors in preparing or transmitting information as part of determining a person's eligibility to receive or possess a firearm, or eligibility for a concealed pistol license or alien firearm license;
 - (g) For issuing a dealer's license to a person ineligible for such a license; or
 - (h) For failing to issue a dealer's license to a person eligible for such a license.
- (2) An application may be made to a court of competent jurisdiction for a writ of mandamus:
- (a) Directing an issuing agency to issue a concealed pistol license or alien firearm license wrongfully refused;
 - (b) Directing a law enforcement agency to approve an application to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle wrongfully denied;
 - (c) Directing that erroneous information resulting either in the wrongful refusal to issue a concealed pistol license or alien firearm license or in the wrongful denial of a purchase application for a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle be corrected; or
 - (d) Directing a law enforcement agency to approve a dealer's license wrongfully denied.

The application for the writ may be made in the county in which the application for a concealed pistol license or alien firearm license or to purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle was made, or in Thurston county, at the discretion of the petitioner. A court shall provide an expedited hearing for an application brought under this subsection (2) for a writ of mandamus. A person granted a writ of mandamus under this subsection (2) shall be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

RCW 9.41.098

Forfeiture of firearms—Disposition—Confiscation.

- (1) The superior courts and the courts of limited jurisdiction of the state may order forfeiture of a firearm which is proven to be:
- (a) Found concealed on a person not authorized by RCW [9.41.060](#) or [9.41.070](#) to carry a concealed pistol: PROVIDED, That it is an absolute defense to forfeiture if the person possessed a valid Washington concealed pistol license within the preceding two years and has not become ineligible for a concealed pistol license in the interim. Before the firearm may be returned, the person must pay the past due renewal fee and the current renewal fee;
 - (b) Commercially sold to any person without an application as required by RCW [9.41.090](#);
 - (c) In the possession of a person prohibited from possessing the firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#) or [9.41.045](#);

(d) In the possession or under the control of a person at the time the person committed or was arrested for committing a felony or committing a nonfelony crime in which a firearm was used or displayed;

(e) In the possession of a person who is in any place in which a concealed pistol license is required, and who is under the influence of any drug or under the influence of intoxicating liquor, as defined in chapter [46.61](#) RCW;

(f) In the possession of a person free on bail or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a felony or for a nonfelony crime in which a firearm was used or displayed, except that violations of Title [77](#) RCW shall not result in forfeiture under this section;

(g) In the possession of a person found to have been mentally incompetent while in possession of a firearm when apprehended or who is thereafter committed pursuant to chapter [10.77](#) RCW or committed for mental health treatment under chapter [71.05](#) RCW;

(h) Used or displayed by a person in the violation of a proper written order of a court of general jurisdiction; or

(i) Used in the commission of a felony or of a nonfelony crime in which a firearm was used or displayed.

(2) Upon order of forfeiture, the court in its discretion may order destruction of any forfeited firearm. A court may temporarily retain forfeited firearms needed for evidence.

(a) Except as provided in (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection, firearms that are: (i) Judicially forfeited and no longer needed for evidence; or (ii) forfeited due to a failure to make a claim under RCW [63.32.010](#) or [63.40.010](#); may be disposed of in any manner determined by the local legislative authority. Any proceeds of an auction or trade may be retained by the legislative authority. This subsection (2)(a) applies only to firearms that come into the possession of the law enforcement agency after June 30, 1993.

By midnight, June 30, 1993, every law enforcement agency shall prepare an inventory, under oath, of every firearm that has been judicially forfeited, has been seized and may be subject to judicial forfeiture, or that has been, or may be, forfeited due to a failure to make a claim under RCW [63.32.010](#) or [63.40.010](#).

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, of the inventoried firearms a law enforcement agency shall destroy illegal firearms, may retain a maximum of ten percent of legal forfeited firearms for agency use, and shall either:

(i) Comply with the provisions for the auction of firearms in RCW [9.41.098](#) that were in effect immediately preceding May 7, 1993; or

(ii) Trade, auction, or arrange for the auction of, rifles and shotguns. In addition, the law enforcement agency shall either trade, auction, or arrange for the auction of, short firearms, or shall pay a fee of twenty-five dollars to the state treasurer for every short firearm neither auctioned nor traded, to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars. The fees shall be accompanied by an inventory, under oath, of every short firearm listed in the inventory required by (a) of this subsection, that has been neither traded nor auctioned. The state treasurer shall credit the fees to the firearms

range account established in RCW [79A.25.210](#). All trades or auctions of firearms under this subsection shall be to licensed dealers. Proceeds of any auction less costs, including actual costs of storage and sale, shall be forwarded to the firearms range account established in RCW [79A.25.210](#).

(c) Antique firearms and firearms recognized as curios, relics, and firearms of particular historical significance by the United States treasury department bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives are exempt from destruction and shall be disposed of by auction or trade to licensed dealers.

(d) Firearms in the possession of the Washington state patrol on or after May 7, 1993, that are judicially forfeited and no longer needed for evidence, or forfeited due to a failure to make a claim under RCW [63.35.020](#), must be disposed of as follows: (i) Firearms illegal for any person to possess must be destroyed; (ii) the Washington state patrol may retain a maximum of ten percent of legal firearms for agency use; and (iii) all other legal firearms must be auctioned or traded to licensed dealers. The Washington state patrol may retain any proceeds of an auction or trade.

(3) The court shall order the firearm returned to the owner upon a showing that there is no probable cause to believe a violation of subsection (1) of this section existed or the firearm was stolen from the owner or the owner neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission involving the firearm which resulted in its forfeiture.

(4) A law enforcement officer of the state or of any county or municipality may confiscate a firearm found to be in the possession of a person under circumstances specified in subsection (1) of this section. After confiscation, the firearm shall not be surrendered except: (a) To the prosecuting attorney for use in subsequent legal proceedings; (b) for disposition according to an order of a court having jurisdiction as provided in subsection (1) of this section; or (c) to the owner if the proceedings are dismissed or as directed in subsection (3) of this section.

RCW 9.41.100

Dealer licensing and registration required.

Every dealer shall be licensed as provided in RCW [9.41.110](#) and shall register with the department of revenue as provided in chapters [82.04](#) and [82.32](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.110

Dealer's licenses, by whom granted, conditions, fees—Employees, fingerprinting and background checks—Wholesale sales excepted—Permits prohibited.

(1) No dealer may sell or otherwise transfer, or expose for sale or transfer, or have in his or her possession with intent to sell, or otherwise transfer, any pistol without being licensed as provided in this section.

(2) No dealer may sell or otherwise transfer, or expose for sale or transfer, or have in his or her possession with intent to sell, or otherwise transfer, any firearm other than a pistol without being licensed as provided in this section.

(3) No dealer may sell or otherwise transfer, or expose for sale or transfer, or have in his or her possession with intent to sell, or otherwise transfer, any ammunition without being licensed as provided in this section.

(4) The duly constituted licensing authorities of any city, town, or political subdivision of this state shall grant licenses in forms prescribed by the director of licensing effective for not more than one year from the date of issue permitting the licensee to sell firearms within this state subject to the following conditions, for breach of any of which the license shall be forfeited and the licensee subject to punishment as provided in RCW [9.41.010](#) through [9.41.810](#). A licensing authority shall forward a copy of each license granted to the department of licensing. The department of licensing shall notify the department of revenue of the name and address of each dealer licensed under this section.

(5)(a) A licensing authority shall, within thirty days after the filing of an application of any person for a dealer's license, determine whether to grant the license. However, if the applicant does not have a valid permanent Washington driver's license or Washington state identification card, or has not been a resident of the state for the previous consecutive ninety days, the licensing authority shall have up to sixty days to determine whether to issue a license. No person shall qualify for a license under this section without first receiving a federal firearms license and undergoing fingerprinting and a background check. In addition, no person ineligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#) or ineligible for a concealed pistol license under RCW [9.41.070](#) shall qualify for a dealer's license.

(b) A dealer shall require every employee who may sell a firearm in the course of his or her employment to undergo fingerprinting and a background check. An employee must be eligible to possess a firearm, and must not have been convicted of a crime that would make the person ineligible for a concealed pistol license, before being permitted to sell a firearm. Every employee shall comply with requirements concerning purchase applications and restrictions on delivery of pistols or semiautomatic assault rifles that are applicable to dealers.

(6)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection, the business shall be carried on only in the building designated in the license. For the purpose of this section, advertising firearms for sale shall not be considered the carrying on of business.

(b) A dealer may conduct business temporarily at a location other than the building designated in the license, if the temporary location is within Washington state and is the location of a gun show sponsored by a national, state, or local organization, or an affiliate of any such organization, devoted to the collection, competitive use, or other sporting use of firearms in the community. Nothing in this subsection (6)(b) authorizes a dealer to conduct business in or from a motorized or towed vehicle.

In conducting business temporarily at a location other than the building designated in the license, the dealer shall comply with all other requirements imposed on dealers by RCW [9.41.090](#), [9.41.100](#), and this section. The license of a dealer who fails to comply with the requirements of RCW [9.41.080](#) and [9.41.090](#) and

subsection (8) of this section while conducting business at a temporary location shall be revoked, and the dealer shall be permanently ineligible for a dealer's license.

(7) The license or a copy thereof, certified by the issuing authority, shall be displayed on the premises in the area where firearms are sold, or at the temporary location, where it can easily be read.

(8)(a) No pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle may be sold: (i) In violation of any provisions of RCW [9.41.010](#) through [9.41.810](#); nor (ii) may a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle be sold under any circumstances unless the purchaser is personally known to the dealer or shall present clear evidence of his or her identity.

(b) A dealer who sells or delivers any firearm in violation of RCW [9.41.080](#) is guilty of a class C felony. In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, the dealer is subject to mandatory permanent revocation of his or her dealer's license and permanent ineligibility for a dealer's license.

(c) The license fee for pistols shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars. The license fee for firearms other than pistols shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars. The license fee for ammunition shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars. Any dealer who obtains any license under subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section may also obtain the remaining licenses without payment of any fee. The fees received under this section shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(9)(a) A true record in triplicate shall be made of every pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle sold, in a book kept for the purpose, the form of which may be prescribed by the director of licensing and shall be personally signed by the purchaser and by the person effecting the sale, each in the presence of the other, and shall contain the date of sale, the caliber, make, model and manufacturer's number of the weapon, the name, address, occupation, and place of birth of the purchaser, and a statement signed by the purchaser that he or she is not ineligible under state or federal law to possess a firearm.

(b) One copy shall within six hours be sent by certified mail to the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the county of which the purchaser is a resident, or the state pursuant to RCW [9.41.090](#); the duplicate the dealer shall within seven days send to the director of licensing; the triplicate the dealer shall retain for six years.

(10) Subsections (2) through (9) of this section shall not apply to sales at wholesale.

(11) The dealer's licenses authorized to be issued by this section are general licenses covering all sales by the licensee within the effective period of the licenses. The department shall provide a single application form for dealer's licenses and a single license form which shall indicate the type or types of licenses granted.

(12) Except as provided in RCW [9.41.090](#), every city, town, and political subdivision of this state is prohibited from requiring the purchaser to secure a permit to purchase or from requiring the dealer to secure an individual permit for each sale.

RCW 9.41.111

Firearm frames or receivers—Background check—Penalty.

(1) Beginning on the date that is thirty days after the Washington state patrol issues a notification to dealers that a state firearms background check system is established within the Washington state patrol, a dealer shall use the state firearms background check system to conduct background checks for purchases or transfers of firearm frames or receivers in accordance with this section.

(a) A dealer may not deliver a firearm frame or receiver to a purchaser or transferee unless the dealer first conducts a background check of the applicant through the state firearms background check system and the requirements or time periods in RCW [9.41.092](#)(1) have been satisfied.

(b) When processing an application for the purchase or transfer of a firearm frame or receiver, a dealer shall comply with the application, recordkeeping, and other requirements of this chapter that apply to the sale or transfer of a pistol.

(c) A signed application for the purchase or transfer of a firearm frame or receiver shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the health care authority, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities release, to an inquiring court, law enforcement agency, or the state, information relevant to the applicant's eligibility to possess a firearm. Any mental health information received by a court, law enforcement agency, or the state pursuant to this section shall not be disclosed except as provided in RCW [42.56.240](#)(4).

(d) The department of licensing shall keep copies or records of applications for the purchase or transfer of a firearm frame or receiver and copies or records of firearm frame or receiver transfers in the same manner as pistol and semiautomatic assault rifle application and transfer records under RCW [9.41.129](#).

(e) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding identity or eligibility requirements on the application to purchase a firearm frame or receiver is guilty of false swearing under RCW [9A.72.040](#).

(f) This section does not apply to sales or transfers of firearm frames or receivers to licensed dealers.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "firearm frame or receiver" means the federally regulated part of a firearm that provides housing for the hammer, bolt or breechblock, and firing mechanism, and which is usually threaded at its forward portion to receive the barrel.

RCW 9.41.113

Firearm sales or transfers—Background checks—Requirements—Exceptions.

(1) All firearm sales or transfers, in whole or part in this state including without limitation a sale or transfer where either the purchaser or seller or transferee or transferor is in Washington, shall be subject to background checks unless specifically exempted by state or federal law. The background check requirement applies to all sales or transfers including, but not limited to, sales and transfers through a licensed dealer, at gun shows, online, and between unlicensed persons.

(2) No person shall sell or transfer a firearm unless:

- (a) The person is a licensed dealer;
- (b) The purchaser or transferee is a licensed dealer; or
- (c) The requirements of subsection (3) of this section are met.

(3) Where neither party to a prospective firearms transaction is a licensed dealer, the parties to the transaction shall complete the sale or transfer through a licensed dealer as follows:

(a) The seller or transferor shall deliver the firearm to a licensed dealer to process the sale or transfer as if it is selling or transferring the firearm from its inventory to the purchaser or transferee, except that the unlicensed seller or transferor may remove the firearm from the business premises of the licensed dealer while the background check is being conducted. If the seller or transferor removes the firearm from the business premises of the licensed dealer while the background check is being conducted, the purchaser or transferee and the seller or transferor shall return to the business premises of the licensed dealer and the seller or transferor shall again deliver the firearm to the licensed dealer prior to completing the sale or transfer.

(b) Except as provided in (a) of this subsection, the licensed dealer shall comply with all requirements of federal and state law that would apply if the licensed dealer were selling or transferring the firearm from its inventory to the purchaser or transferee, including but not limited to conducting a background check on the prospective purchaser or transferee in accordance with federal and state law requirements, fulfilling all federal and state recordkeeping requirements, and complying with the specific requirements and restrictions on semiautomatic assault rifles in chapter 3, Laws of 2019.

(c) The purchaser or transferee must complete, sign, and submit all federal, state, and local forms necessary to process the required background check to the licensed dealer conducting the background check.

(d) If the results of the background check indicate that the purchaser or transferee is ineligible to possess a firearm, then the licensed dealer shall return the firearm to the seller or transferor.

(e) The licensed dealer may charge a fee that reflects the fair market value of the administrative costs and efforts incurred by the licensed dealer for facilitating the sale or transfer of the firearm.

(4) This section does not apply to:

(a) A transfer between immediate family members, which for this subsection shall be limited to spouses, domestic partners, parents, parents-in-law, children, siblings, siblings-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, first cousins, aunts, and uncles, that is a bona fide gift or loan;

(b) The sale or transfer of an antique firearm;

(c) A temporary transfer of possession of a firearm if such transfer is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to the person to whom the firearm is transferred if:

(i) The temporary transfer only lasts as long as immediately necessary to prevent such imminent death or great bodily harm; and

(ii) The person to whom the firearm is transferred is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law;

(d) A temporary transfer of possession of a firearm if: (i) The transfer is intended to prevent suicide or self-inflicted great bodily harm; (ii) the transfer lasts only as long as reasonably necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm; and (iii) the firearm is not utilized by the transferee for any purpose for the duration of the temporary transfer;

(e) Any law enforcement or corrections agency and, to the extent the person is acting within the course and scope of his or her employment or official duties, any law enforcement or corrections officer, United States marshal, member of the armed forces of the United States or the national guard, or federal official;

(f) A federally licensed gunsmith who receives a firearm solely for the purposes of service or repair, or the return of the firearm to its owner by the federally licensed gunsmith;

(g) The temporary transfer of a firearm (i) between spouses or domestic partners; (ii) if the temporary transfer occurs, and the firearm is kept at all times, at an established shooting range authorized by the governing body of the jurisdiction in which such range is located; (iii) if the temporary transfer occurs and the transferee's possession of the firearm is exclusively at a lawful organized competition involving the use of a firearm, or while participating in or practicing for a performance by an organized group that uses firearms as a part of the performance; (iv) to a person who is under eighteen years of age for lawful hunting, sporting, or educational purposes while under the direct supervision and control of a responsible adult who is not prohibited from possessing firearms; (v) under circumstances in which the transferee and the firearm remain in the presence of the transferor; or (vi) while hunting if the hunting is legal in all places where the person to whom the firearm is transferred possesses the firearm and the person to whom the firearm is transferred has completed all training and holds all licenses or permits required for such hunting, provided that any temporary transfer allowed by this subsection is permitted only if the person to whom the firearm is transferred is not prohibited from possessing firearms under state or federal law;

(h) A person who (i) acquired a firearm other than a pistol by operation of law upon the death of the former owner of the firearm or (ii) acquired a pistol by operation of law upon the death of the former owner of the pistol within the preceding sixty days. At the end of the sixty-day period, the person must either have lawfully transferred the pistol or must have contacted the department of licensing to notify the department that he or she has possession of the pistol and intends to retain possession of the pistol, in compliance with all federal and state laws; or

(i) A sale or transfer when the purchaser or transferee is a licensed collector and the firearm being sold or transferred is a curio or relic.

RCW 9.41.1135

Firearms sales or transfers—Use of state firearms background check system.

(1) Beginning on the date that is thirty days after the Washington state patrol issues a notification to dealers that a state firearms background check system is established within the Washington state patrol under RCW [43.43.580](#), a dealer shall use the state firearms background check system to conduct background checks for all firearms transfers. A dealer may not sell or transfer a firearm to an individual unless the dealer first contacts the Washington state patrol for a background check to determine the eligibility of the purchaser or transferee to possess a firearm under state and federal law and the requirements and time periods established in RCW [9.41.090](#) and [9.41.092](#) have been satisfied. When an applicant applies for the purchase or transfer of a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, a dealer shall comply with all requirements of this chapter that apply to the sale or transfer of a pistol or semiautomatic rifle. The purchase or transfer of a firearm that is not a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle must be processed in the same manner and under the same requirements of this chapter that apply to the sale or transfer of a pistol, except that the provisions of RCW [9.41.129](#), and the requirement in RCW [9.41.110](#)(9)(b) concerning transmitting application records to the director of licensing, shall not apply to these transactions.

(2) A dealer shall charge a purchaser or transferee a background check fee in an amount determined by the Washington state patrol and remit the proceeds from the fee to the Washington state patrol on a monthly basis. The background check fee does not apply to any background check conducted in connection with a pawnbroker's receipt of a pawned firearm or the redemption of a pawned firearm.

(3) This section does not apply to sales or transfers to licensed dealers or to the sale or transfer of an antique firearm.

RCW 9.41.114

Firearm sales or transfers—Denial of application report—Dealer's duties. (Contingent expiration date.)

(1) A dealer shall report to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs information on each instance where the dealer denies an application for the purchase or transfer of a firearm, whether under RCW [9.41.090](#) or [9.41.113](#), or the requirements of federal law, as the result of a background check or completed and submitted firearm purchase or transfer application that indicates the applicant is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law. The dealer shall report the denied application information to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs within five days of the denial in a format as prescribed by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs. The reported information must include the identifying information of the applicant, the date of the application and denial of the application, and other information or documents as prescribed by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs. In any case where the purchase or transfer of a firearm is initially denied by the dealer as the result of a background check that indicates the applicant is ineligible to possess a firearm, but the purchase or transfer

is subsequently approved, the dealer shall report the subsequent approval to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs within one day of the approval.

(2) Upon denying an application for the purchase or transfer of a firearm as a result of a background check or completed and submitted firearm purchase or transfer application that indicates the applicant is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law, the dealer shall:

(a) Provide the applicant with a copy of a notice form generated and distributed by the Washington state patrol under RCW [43.43.823](#)(5), informing denied applicants of their right to appeal the denial; and

(b) Retain the original records of the attempted purchase or transfer of a firearm for a period not less than six years.

RCW 9.41.114

Firearm sales or transfers—Denial of application report—Dealer's duties. (Contingent effective date.)

Upon denying an application for the purchase or transfer of a firearm as a result of a background check or completed and submitted firearm purchase or transfer application that indicates the applicant is ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law, the dealer shall:

(1) Provide the applicant with a copy of a notice form generated and distributed by the Washington state patrol under RCW [43.43.823](#)(6), informing denied applicants of their right to appeal the denial; and

(2) Retain the original records of the attempted purchase or transfer of a firearm for a period not less than six years.

Contingent effective date—2020 c 28 §§ 5-9: "Sections 5 through 9 of this act take effect on the date that is thirty days after the Washington state patrol issues a notification to dealers that a state firearms background check system is established under section 1 of this act. The Washington state patrol shall provide written notice of the effective date of sections 5 through 9 of this act to the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the Washington state patrol."

RCW 9.41.115

Penalties—Violations of RCW 9.41.113.

Notwithstanding the penalty provisions in this chapter, any person knowingly violating RCW [9.41.113](#) is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW. If a person previously has been found guilty under this section, then the person is guilty of a class C felony punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each subsequent knowing violation of RCW [9.41.113](#). A person is guilty of a separate offense for each and every gun sold or transferred without complying with the background check requirements of RCW [9.41.113](#). It is an affirmative defense to any prosecution brought under this section that the sale or transfer satisfied one of the exceptions in RCW [9.41.113](#)(4).

RCW 9.41.120**Firearms as loan security.**

No person other than a duly licensed dealer shall make any loan secured by a mortgage, deposit or pledge of a pistol. Any licensed dealer receiving a pistol as a deposit or pledge for a loan shall keep such records and make such reports as are provided by law for pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers in cities of the first class. A duly licensed dealer may mortgage any pistol or stock of pistols but shall not deposit or pledge the same with any other person.

RCW 9.41.122**Out-of-state purchasing.**

Residents of Washington may purchase rifles and shotguns in a state other than Washington: PROVIDED, That such residents conform to the applicable provisions of the federal Gun Control Act of 1968, Title IV, Pub. L. 90-351 as administered by the United States secretary of the treasury: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That such residents are eligible to purchase or possess such weapons in Washington and in the state in which such purchase is made: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That when any part of the transaction takes place in Washington, including, but not limited to, internet sales, such residents are subject to the procedures and background checks required by this chapter.

RCW 9.41.124**Purchasing of rifles and shotguns by nonresidents.**

Residents of a state other than Washington may purchase rifles and shotguns, except those firearms defined as semiautomatic assault rifles, in Washington: PROVIDED, That such residents conform to the applicable provisions of the federal Gun Control Act of 1968, Title IV, Pub. L. 90-351 as administered by the United States secretary of the treasury: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That such residents are eligible to purchase or possess such weapons in Washington and in the state in which such persons reside: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That such residents are subject to the procedures and background checks required by this chapter.

RCW 9.41.129**Recordkeeping requirements.**

The department of licensing shall keep copies or records of applications for concealed pistol licenses provided for in RCW [9.41.070](#), copies or records of applications for alien firearm licenses, copies or records of applications to purchase pistols or semiautomatic assault rifles provided for in RCW [9.41.090](#), and copies or records of pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle transfers provided for in RCW [9.41.110](#). The copies and records shall not be disclosed except as provided in RCW [42.56.240](#)(4).

RCW 9.41.135

Verification of licenses and registration—Notice to federal government.

(1) At least once every twelve months, the department of licensing shall obtain a list of dealers licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a) with business premises in the state of Washington from the United States bureau of alcohol, tobacco, and firearms. The department of licensing shall verify that all dealers on the list provided by the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, and firearms are licensed and registered as required by RCW [9.41.100](#).

(2) At least once every twelve months, the department of licensing shall obtain from the department of revenue and the department of revenue shall transmit to the department of licensing a list of dealers registered with the department of revenue, and a list of dealers whose names and addresses were forwarded to the department of revenue by the department of licensing under RCW [9.41.110](#), who failed to register with the department of revenue as required by RCW [9.41.100](#).

(3) At least once every twelve months, the department of licensing shall notify the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, and firearms of all dealers licensed under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a) with business premises in the state of Washington who have not complied with the licensing or registration requirements of RCW [9.41.100](#). In notifying the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, and firearms, the department of licensing shall not specify whether a particular dealer has failed to comply with licensing requirements or has failed to comply with registration requirements.

RCW 9.41.137

Department of licensing, authority to adopt rules—Reporting of violations—Authority to revoke licenses.

The department of licensing shall have the authority to adopt rules for the implementation of this chapter as amended. In addition, the department of licensing shall report any violation of this chapter by a licensed dealer to the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms and explosives within the United States department of justice and shall have the authority, after notice and a hearing, to revoke the license of any licensed dealer found to be in violation of this chapter.

RCW 9.41.139

Department of licensing—Eligibility to possess firearms.

(1) Within twelve months of July 1, 2019, the department of licensing shall, in conjunction with the Washington state patrol and other state and local law enforcement agencies as necessary, develop a cost-effective and efficient process to:

(a) Verify, on an annual or more frequent basis, that persons who acquired pistols or semiautomatic assault rifles pursuant to this chapter remain eligible to possess a firearm under state and federal law; and

(b) If such persons are determined to be ineligible for any reason, (i) notify and provide the relevant information to the chief of police or the sheriff of the jurisdiction in which the purchaser resides and (ii) take steps to ensure such persons are not illegally in possession of firearms.

(2) The department of licensing, where appropriate, may consult with individuals from the public and private sector or ask the individuals to establish a temporary advisory committee to accomplish the purposes in subsection (1) of this section. Members of such an advisory committee are not entitled to expense reimbursement.

RCW 9.41.140

Alteration of identifying marks—Exceptions.

No person may change, alter, remove, or obliterate the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number, or other mark of identification on any firearm. Possession of any firearm upon which any such mark shall have been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated, shall be prima facie evidence that the possessor has changed, altered, removed, or obliterated the same. This section shall not apply to replacement barrels in old firearms, which barrels are produced by current manufacturers and therefore do not have the markings on the barrels of the original manufacturers who are no longer in business. This section also shall not apply if the changes do not make the firearm illegal for the person to possess under state or federal law.

RCW 9.41.171

Alien possession of firearms—Requirements—Penalty.

It is a class C felony for any person who is not a citizen of the United States to carry or possess any firearm, unless the person: (1) Is a lawful permanent resident; (2) has obtained a valid alien firearm license pursuant to RCW [9.41.173](#); or (3) meets the requirements of RCW [9.41.175](#).

RCW 9.41.173

Alien possession of firearms—Alien firearm license—Political subdivisions may not modify requirements—Penalty for false statement.

(1) In order to obtain an alien firearm license, a nonimmigrant alien residing in Washington must apply to the sheriff of the county in which he or she resides.

(2) The sheriff of the county shall within sixty days after the filing of an application of a nonimmigrant alien residing in the state of Washington, issue an alien firearm license to such person to carry or possess a firearm for the purposes of hunting and sport shooting. The license shall be good for two years. The issuing authority shall not refuse to accept completed applications for alien firearm licenses during regular business hours. An application for a license may not be denied, unless the applicant's alien firearm license is in a revoked status, or the applicant:

(a) Is ineligible to possess a firearm under the provisions of RCW [9.41.040](#) or [9.41.045](#);

(b) Is subject to a court order or injunction regarding firearms pursuant to chapter [7.105](#) RCW, or RCW [9A.46.080](#), [10.99.040](#), [10.99.045](#), [26.09.050](#), [26.09.060](#), * [26.10.040](#), [26.26B.020](#), or [26.26A.470](#), or any of the former RCW [10.14.080](#), [26.10.115](#), [26.50.060](#), and [26.50.070](#);

(c) Is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a felony offense; or

(d) Has an outstanding warrant for his or her arrest from any court of competent jurisdiction for a felony or misdemeanor.

No license application shall be granted to a nonimmigrant alien convicted of a felony unless the person has been granted relief from disabilities by the attorney general under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 925(c), or unless RCW [9.41.040](#) (3) or (4) applies.

(3) The sheriff shall check with the national crime information center, the Washington state patrol electronic database, the health care authority electronic database, and with other agencies or resources as appropriate, to determine whether the applicant is ineligible under RCW [9.41.040](#) or [9.41.045](#) to possess a firearm.

(4) The license application shall bear the full name, residential address, telephone number at the option of the applicant, date and place of birth, race, gender, description, a complete set of fingerprints, and signature of the applicant, a copy of the applicant's passport and visa showing the applicant is in the country legally, and a valid Washington hunting license or documentation that the applicant is a member of a sport shooting club.

A signed application for an alien firearm license shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality and written request that the health care authority, mental health institutions, and other health care facilities release information relevant to the applicant's eligibility for an alien firearm license to an inquiring court or law enforcement agency.

The application for an original license shall include a complete set of fingerprints to be forwarded to the Washington state patrol.

The license and application shall contain a warning substantially as follows:

CAUTION: Although state and local laws do not differ, federal law and state law on the possession of firearms differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in federal court. A state license is not a defense to a federal prosecution.

The license shall contain a description of the major differences between state and federal law and an explanation of the fact that local laws and ordinances on firearms are preempted by state law and must be consistent with state law. The application shall contain questions about the applicant's eligibility under RCW [9.41.040](#) to possess a firearm. The nonimmigrant alien applicant shall be required to produce a passport and visa as evidence of being in the country legally.

The license may be in triplicate or in a form to be prescribed by the department of licensing. The original thereof shall be delivered to the licensee, the duplicate shall within seven days be sent to the director of licensing and the triplicate shall be preserved for six years, by the authority issuing the license.

The department of licensing shall make available to law enforcement and corrections agencies, in an online format, all information received under this section.

(5) The sheriff has the authority to collect a nonrefundable fee, paid upon application, for the two-year license. The fee shall be fifty dollars plus additional

charges imposed by the Washington state patrol and the federal bureau of investigation that are passed on to the applicant. No other state or local branch or unit of government may impose any additional charges on the applicant for the issuance of the license. The fee shall be retained by the sheriff.

(6) Payment shall be by cash, check, or money order at the option of the applicant. Additional methods of payment may be allowed at the option of the sheriff.

(7) A political subdivision of the state shall not modify the requirements of this section, nor may a political subdivision ask the applicant to voluntarily submit any information not required by this section.

(8) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding citizenship or identity on an application for an alien firearm license is guilty of false swearing under RCW [9A.72.040](#). In addition to any other penalty provided for by law, the alien firearm license of a person who knowingly makes a false statement shall be revoked, and the person shall be permanently ineligible for an alien firearm license.

RCW 9.41.175

Alien possession of firearms—Possession without license—Conditions.

(1) A nonimmigrant alien, who is not a resident of Washington or a citizen of Canada, may carry or possess any firearm without having first obtained an alien firearm license if the nonimmigrant alien possesses:

- (a) A valid passport and visa showing he or she is in the country legally;
- (b) If required under federal law, an approved United States department of justice ATF-6 NIA application and permit for temporary importation of firearms and ammunition by nonimmigrant aliens; and
- (c)(i) A valid hunting license issued by a state or territory of the United States; or
- (ii) An invitation to participate in a trade show or sport shooting event being conducted in this state, another state, or another country that is contiguous with this state.

(2) A citizen of Canada may carry or possess any firearm so long as he or she possesses:

- (a) Valid documentation as required for entry into the United States;
- (b) If required under federal law, an approved United States department of justice ATF-6 NIA application and permit for temporary importation of firearms and ammunition by nonimmigrant aliens; and
- (c)(i) A valid hunting license issued by a state or territory of the United States; or
- (ii) An invitation to participate in a trade show or sport shooting event being conducted in this state, another state, or another country that is contiguous with this state.

(3) For purposes of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the firearms may only be possessed for the purpose of using them in the hunting of game while such persons are in the act of hunting, or while on a hunting trip, or while such persons are competing in a bona fide trap or skeet shoot or any other organized contest where rifles, pistols, or shotguns are used. Nothing in this section shall be construed

to allow aliens to hunt or fish in this state without first having obtained a regular hunting or fishing license.

RCW 9.41.185

Coyote getters.

The use of "coyote getters" or similar spring-triggered shell devices shall not constitute a violation of any of the laws of the state of Washington when the use of such "coyote getters" is authorized by the state department of agriculture and/or the state department of fish and wildlife in cooperative programs with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, for the purpose of controlling or eliminating coyotes harmful to livestock and game animals on range land or forest areas.

RCW 9.41.190

Unlawful firearms—Exceptions.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Manufacture, own, buy, sell, loan, furnish, transport, or have in possession or under control, any machine gun, bump-fire stock, undetectable firearm, short-barreled shotgun, or short-barreled rifle;

(b) Manufacture, own, buy, sell, loan, furnish, transport, or have in possession or under control, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively for use in a machine gun, bump-fire stock, undetectable firearm, short-barreled shotgun, or short-barreled rifle, or in converting a weapon into a machine gun, short-barreled shotgun, or short-barreled rifle;

(c) Assemble or repair any machine gun, bump-fire stock, undetectable firearm, short-barreled shotgun, or short-barreled rifle; or

(d) Manufacture, cause to be manufactured, assemble, or cause to be assembled, an untraceable firearm with the intent to sell the untraceable firearm.

(2) It is not unlawful for a person to manufacture, own, buy, sell, loan, furnish, transport, assemble, or repair, or have in possession or under control, a short-barreled rifle, or any part designed or intended solely and exclusively for use in a short-barreled rifle or in converting a weapon into a short-barreled rifle, if the person is in compliance with applicable federal law.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to:

(a) Any peace officer in the discharge of official duty or traveling to or from official duty, or to any officer or member of the armed forces of the United States or the state of Washington in the discharge of official duty or traveling to or from official duty; or

(b) A person, including an employee of such person if the employee has undergone fingerprinting and a background check, who or which is exempt from or licensed under federal law, and engaged in the production, manufacture, repair, or testing of machine guns, bump-fire stocks, short-barreled shotguns, or short-barreled rifles:

(i) To be used or purchased by the armed forces of the United States;

(ii) To be used or purchased by federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agencies; or

(iii) For exportation in compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

(4) It shall be an affirmative defense to a prosecution brought under this section that the machine gun or short-barreled shotgun was acquired prior to July 1, 1994, and is possessed in compliance with federal law.

(5) Any person violating this section is guilty of a class C felony.

RCW 9.41.220

Unlawful firearms and parts contraband.

All machine guns, bump-fire stocks, undetectable firearms, short-barreled shotguns, or short-barreled rifles, or any part designed and intended solely and exclusively for use in a machine gun, short-barreled shotgun, or short-barreled rifle, or in converting a weapon into a machine gun, short-barreled shotgun, or short-barreled rifle, illegally held or illegally possessed are hereby declared to be contraband, and it shall be the duty of all peace officers, and/or any officer or member of the armed forces of the United States or the state of Washington, to seize said machine gun, bump-fire stock, undetectable firearm, short-barreled shotgun, or short-barreled rifle, or parts thereof, wherever and whenever found.

RCW 9.41.225

Use of machine gun or bump-fire stock in felony—Penalty.

(1) It is unlawful for a person, in the commission or furtherance of a felony other than a violation of RCW [9.41.190](#), to discharge a machine gun or to menace or threaten with a machine gun, another person.

(2) It is unlawful for a person, in the commission or furtherance of a felony other than a violation of RCW [9.41.190](#), to discharge a firearm containing a bump-fire stock or to menace or threaten another person with a firearm containing a bump-fire stock.

(3) A violation of this section shall be punished as a class A felony under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.230

Aiming or discharging firearms, dangerous weapons.

(1) For conduct not amounting to a violation of chapter [9A.36](#) RCW, any person who:

(a) Aims any firearm, whether loaded or not, at or towards any human being;

(b) Willfully discharges any firearm, air gun, or other weapon, or throws any deadly missile in a public place, or in any place where any person might be endangered thereby. A public place shall not include any location at which firearms are authorized to be lawfully discharged; or

(c) Except as provided in RCW [9.41.185](#), sets a so-called trap, spring pistol, rifle, or other dangerous weapon,

although no injury results, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

(2) If an injury results from a violation of subsection (1) of this section, the person violating subsection (1) of this section shall be subject to the applicable provisions of chapters [9A.32](#) and [9A.36](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.240

Possession of pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle by person from eighteen to twenty-one.

(1) A person under twenty-one years of age may not purchase a pistol or semiautomatic assault rifle, and except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person may sell or transfer a semiautomatic assault rifle to a person under twenty-one years of age.

(2) Unless an exception under RCW [9.41.042](#), [9.41.050](#), or [9.41.060](#) applies, a person at least eighteen years of age, but less than twenty-one years of age, may possess a pistol only:

- (a) In the person's place of abode;
- (b) At the person's fixed place of business; or
- (c) On real property under his or her control.

(3) Except in the places and situations identified in RCW [9.41.042](#) (1) through (9) and [9.41.060](#) (1) through (10), a person at least eighteen years of age, but less than twenty-one years of age, may possess a semiautomatic assault rifle only:

- (a) In the person's place of abode;
- (b) At the person's fixed place of business;
- (c) On real property under his or her control; or
- (d) For the specific purpose of (i) moving to a new place of abode; (ii) traveling between the person's place of abode and real property under his or her control; or (iii) selling or transferring the firearm in accordance with the requirements of this chapter; provided that in all of these situations the semiautomatic assault rifle is unloaded and either in secure gun storage or secured with a trigger lock or similar device that is designed to prevent the unauthorized use or discharge of the firearm.

RCW 9.41.250

Dangerous weapons—Penalty.

(1) Every person who:

(a) Manufactures, sells, or disposes of or possesses any instrument or weapon of the kind usually known as slungshot, sand club, or metal knuckles, or spring blade knife;

(b) Furtively carries with intent to conceal any dagger, dirk, pistol, or other dangerous weapon; or

(c) Uses any contrivance or device for suppressing the noise of any firearm unless the suppressor is legally registered and possessed in accordance with federal law,

is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

(2) "Spring blade knife" means any knife, including a prototype, model, or other sample, with a blade that is automatically released by a spring mechanism or other mechanical device, or any knife having a blade which opens, or falls, or is ejected into position by the force of gravity, or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement. A knife that contains a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure of the blade and that requires physical exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure to assist in opening the knife is not a spring blade knife.

RCW 9.41.251

Dangerous weapons—Application of restrictions to law enforcement, firefighting, rescue, and military personnel.

(1) RCW [9.41.250](#) does not apply to:

(a) The possession or use of a spring blade knife by a general authority law enforcement officer, firefighter or rescue member, Washington state patrol officer, or military member, while the officer or member:

(i) Is on official duty; or

(ii) Is transporting a spring blade knife to or from the place where the knife is stored when the officer or member is not on official duty; or

(iii) Is storing a spring blade knife;

(b) The manufacture, sale, transportation, transfer, distribution, or possession of spring blade knives pursuant to contract with a general authority law enforcement agency, fire or rescue agency, Washington state patrol, or military service, or pursuant to a contract with another manufacturer or a commercial distributor of knives for use, sale, or other disposition by the manufacturer or commercial distributor;

(c) The manufacture, transportation, transfer, distribution, or possession of spring blade knives, with or without compensation and with or without a contract, solely for trial, test, or other provisional use for evaluation and assessment purposes, by a general authority law enforcement agency, fire or rescue agency, Washington state patrol, military service, or a manufacturer or commercial distributor of knives.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Military member" means an active member of the United States military or naval forces, or a Washington national guard member called to active duty or during training.

(b) "General law enforcement agency" means any agency, department, or division of a municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other unit of local government of this state or any other state, and any agency, department, or division of any state government, having as its primary function the detection and apprehension of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws in general.

(c) "General law enforcement officer" means any person who is commissioned and employed by an employer on a full-time, fully compensated basis to enforce the criminal laws of the state of Washington generally. No person who is serving in a

position that is basically clerical or secretarial in nature, or who is not commissioned shall be considered a law enforcement officer.

(d) "Fire or rescue agency" means any agency, department, or division of a municipal corporation, political subdivision, or other unit of local government of this state or any other state, and any agency, department, or division of any state government, having as its primary function the prevention, control, or extinguishment of fire or provision of emergency medical services or rescue actions for persons.

(e) "Firefighter or rescue member" means any person who is serving on a full-time, fully compensated basis as a member of a fire or rescue agency to prevent, control, or extinguish fire or provide emergency medical services or rescue actions for persons. No person who is serving in a position that is basically clerical or secretarial in nature shall be considered a firefighter or rescue member.

(f) "Military service" means the active, reserve, or national guard components of the United States military, including the army, navy, air force, marines, and coast guard.

RCW 9.41.260

Dangerous exhibitions.

Every proprietor, lessee, or occupant of any place of amusement, or any plat of ground or building, who allows it to be used for the exhibition of skill in throwing any sharp instrument or in shooting any bow gun or firearm of any description, at or toward any human being, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.270

Weapons apparently capable of producing bodily harm—Unlawful carrying or handling—Penalty—Exceptions.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to carry, exhibit, display, or draw any firearm, dagger, sword, knife or other cutting or stabbing instrument, club, or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons.

(2) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (1) above shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If any person is convicted of a violation of subsection (1) of this section, the person shall lose his or her concealed pistol license, if any. The court shall send notice of the revocation to the department of licensing, and the city, town, or county which issued the license.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to or affect the following:

(a) Any act committed by a person while in his or her place of abode or fixed place of business;

(b) Any person who by virtue of his or her office or public employment is vested by law with a duty to preserve public safety, maintain public order, or to make arrests for offenses, while in the performance of such duty;

(c) Any person acting for the purpose of protecting himself or herself against the use of presently threatened unlawful force by another, or for the purpose of protecting another against the use of such unlawful force by a third person;

(d) Any person making or assisting in making a lawful arrest for the commission of a felony; or

(e) Any person engaged in military activities sponsored by the federal or state governments.

RCW 9.41.280

Possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities—Penalty—Exceptions.

(1) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly carry onto, or to possess on, public or private elementary or secondary school premises, school-provided transportation, areas of facilities while being used exclusively by public or private schools, or areas of facilities while being used for official meetings of a school district board of directors:

(a) Any firearm;

(b) Any other dangerous weapon as defined in RCW [9.41.250](#);

(c) Any device commonly known as "nun-chu-ka sticks," consisting of two or more lengths of wood, metal, plastic, or similar substance connected with wire, rope, or other means;

(d) Any device, commonly known as "throwing stars," which are multipointed, metal objects designed to embed upon impact from any aspect;

(e) Any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas; or

(f)(i) Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun which projects wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse; or

(ii) Any device, object, or instrument which is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse.

(2) Any such person violating subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Second and subsequent violations of subsection (1) of this section are a gross misdemeanor. If any person is convicted of a violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section, the person shall have his or her concealed pistol license, if any revoked for a period of three years. Anyone convicted under this subsection is prohibited from applying for a concealed pistol license for a period of three years. The court shall send notice of the revocation to the department of licensing, and the city, town, or county which issued the license.

Any violation of subsection (1) of this section by elementary or secondary school students constitutes grounds for expulsion from the state's public schools in accordance with RCW [28A.600.010](#). An appropriate school authority shall promptly notify law enforcement and the student's parent or guardian regarding any allegation or indication of such violation.

Upon the arrest of a person at least twelve years of age and not more than twenty-one years of age for violating subsection (1)(a) of this section, the person shall be detained or confined in a juvenile or adult facility for up to seventy-two hours. The person shall not be released within the seventy-two hours until after the person has been examined and evaluated by the designated crisis responder unless the court in its discretion releases the person sooner after a determination regarding probable cause or on probation bond or bail.

Within twenty-four hours of the arrest, the arresting law enforcement agency shall refer the person to the designated crisis responder for examination and evaluation under chapter [71.05](#) or [71.34](#) RCW and inform a parent or guardian of the person of the arrest, detention, and examination. The designated crisis responder shall examine and evaluate the person subject to the provisions of chapter [71.05](#) or [71.34](#) RCW. The examination shall occur at the facility in which the person is detained or confined. If the person has been released on probation, bond, or bail, the examination shall occur wherever is appropriate.

Upon completion of any examination by the designated crisis responder, the results of the examination shall be sent to the court, and the court shall consider those results in making any determination about the person.

The designated crisis responder shall, to the extent permitted by law, notify a parent or guardian of the person that an examination and evaluation has taken place and the results of the examination. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the delivery of additional, appropriate mental health examinations to the person while the person is detained or confined.

If the designated crisis responder determines it is appropriate, the designated crisis responder may refer the person to the local behavioral health administrative services organization for follow-up services or other community providers for other services to the family and individual.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) Any student or employee of a private military academy when on the property of the academy;

(b) Any person engaged in military, law enforcement, or school district security activities. However, a person who is not a commissioned law enforcement officer and who provides school security services under the direction of a school administrator may not possess a device listed in subsection (1)(f) of this section unless he or she has successfully completed training in the use of such devices that is equivalent to the training received by commissioned law enforcement officers;

(c) Any person who is involved in a convention, showing, demonstration, lecture, or firearms safety course authorized by school authorities in which the firearms of collectors or instructors are handled or displayed;

(d) Any person while the person is participating in a firearms or air gun competition approved by the school or school district;

(e) Any person in possession of a pistol who has been issued a license under RCW [9.41.070](#), or is exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW [9.41.060](#), while:

(i) Picking up or dropping off a student; or

(ii) Attending official meetings of a school district board of directors held off school district-owned or leased property;

(f) Any nonstudent at least eighteen years of age legally in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon that is secured within an attended vehicle or concealed from view within a locked unattended vehicle while conducting legitimate business at the school;

(g) Any nonstudent at least eighteen years of age who is in lawful possession of an unloaded firearm, secured in a vehicle while conducting legitimate business at the school; or

(h) Any law enforcement officer of the federal, state, or local government agency.

(4) Subsections (1)(c) and (d) of this section do not apply to any person who possesses nun-chu-ka sticks, throwing stars, or other dangerous weapons to be used in martial arts classes authorized to be conducted on the school premises.

(5) Subsection (1)(f)(i) of this section does not apply to any person who possesses a device listed in subsection (1)(f)(i) of this section, if the device is possessed and used solely for the purpose approved by a school for use in a school authorized event, lecture, or activity conducted on the school premises.

(6) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), (c), (f), and (h) of this section, firearms are not permitted in a public or private school building.

(7) "GUN-FREE ZONE" signs shall be posted around school facilities giving warning of the prohibition of the possession of firearms on school grounds.

(8) A school district board of directors must post signs providing notice of the restrictions on possession of firearms and other weapons under this section at facilities being used for official meetings of the school district board of directors.

RCW 9.41.282

Possessing dangerous weapons on child care premises—Penalty—Exceptions.

(1) It is unlawful for a person to carry onto, or to possess on, licensed child care center premises, child care center-provided transportation, or areas of facilities while being used exclusively by a child care center:

(a) Any firearm;

(b) Any other dangerous weapon as described in RCW [9.41.250](#);

(c) Any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas; or

(d)(i) Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun that projects wired probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse; or

(ii) Any device, object, or instrument that is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If a person is convicted of a violation of subsection (1)(a) of this

section, the person shall have his or her concealed pistol license, if any, revoked for a period of three years. Anyone convicted under subsection (1)(a) of this section is prohibited from applying for a concealed pistol license for a period of three years from the date of conviction. The court shall order the person to immediately surrender any concealed pistol license, and within three business days notify the department of licensing in writing of the required revocation of any concealed pistol license held by the person. Upon receipt of the notification by the court, the department of licensing shall determine if the person has a concealed pistol license. If the person does have a concealed pistol license, the department of licensing shall immediately notify the license-issuing authority which, upon receipt of the notification, shall immediately revoke the license.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) Family day care provider homes as defined in RCW [43.216.010](#);

(b) Any person in possession of a pistol who has been issued a license under RCW [9.41.070](#), or is exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW [9.41.060](#), while picking up or dropping off a child at the child care center;

(c) Any person at least eighteen years of age legally in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon that is secured within an attended vehicle or concealed from view within a locked unattended vehicle while conducting legitimate business at the child care center; or

(d) Any law enforcement officer of a federal, state, or local government agency.

(4) Child care centers must post "GUN-FREE ZONE" signs giving warning of the prohibition of the possession of firearms on center premises.

(5) A child care center that is located on public or private elementary or secondary school premises is subject to the requirements of RCW [9.41.280](#).

(6) For the purposes of this section, child care center has the same meaning as "child day care center" as defined in RCW [43.216.010](#).

RCW 9.41.284

Possessing dangerous weapons at voting facilities—Penalty—Exceptions.

(1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, it is unlawful for a person to knowingly carry onto, or to possess in, a ballot counting center, a voting center, a student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter registration office, or areas of facilities while being used as a ballot counting center, a voting center, a student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter registration office:

(a) Any firearm;

(b) Any other dangerous weapon as described in RCW [9.41.250](#);

(c) Any air gun, including any air pistol or air rifle, designed to propel a BB, pellet, or other projectile by the discharge of compressed air, carbon dioxide, or other gas;

(d)(i) Any portable device manufactured to function as a weapon and which is commonly known as a stun gun, including a projectile stun gun that projects wired

probes that are attached to the device that emit an electrical charge designed to administer to a person or an animal an electric shock, charge, or impulse; or

(ii) Any device, object, or instrument that is used or intended to be used as a weapon with the intent to injure a person by an electric shock, charge, or impulse; or

(e) Any spring blade knife as defined in RCW [9.41.250](#).

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Second and subsequent violations of this section are a gross misdemeanor. If a person is convicted of a violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section, the person shall have his or her concealed pistol license, if any, revoked for a period of three years. Anyone convicted under subsection (1)(a) of this section is prohibited from applying for a concealed pistol license for a period of three years from the date of conviction. The court shall order the person to immediately surrender any concealed pistol license, and within three business days notify the department of licensing in writing of the required revocation of any concealed pistol license held by the person. Upon receipt of the notification by the court, the department of licensing shall determine if the person has a concealed pistol license. If the person does have a concealed pistol license, the department of licensing shall immediately notify the license-issuing authority which, upon receipt of the notification, shall immediately revoke the license.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) Any law enforcement officer of a federal, state, or local government agency;
or

(b) Any security personnel hired by a county and engaged in security specifically for a counting center, a voting center, a student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter registration office or areas of facilities used for such purposes. However, a person who is not a commissioned law enforcement officer and who provides elections and voter registration security services under the direction of a county may not possess a firearm or device listed in subsection (1)(d) of this section unless he or she has successfully completed training in the use of firearms or such devices that is equivalent to the training received by commissioned law enforcement officers.

(4) Subsection (1) of this section does not prohibit concealed carry of a pistol, by a person licensed to carry a concealed pistol pursuant to RCW [9.41.070](#), in any voting center, student engagement hub, county elections and voter registration office, or areas of facilities while being used as a voting center, student engagement hub, or county elections and voter registration office. However, no weapon restricted by this section, whether concealed or openly carried, may be possessed in any ballot counting center or areas of facilities while being used as a ballot counting center.

(5) Elections officers and officials must post signs providing notice of the restriction on possession of firearms and other weapons at each counting center, voting center, student engagement hub, or county elections and voter registration office, or areas of facilities while being used as a counting center, a voting center, a student engagement hub, or the county elections and voter registration office.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

- (a) "Ballot counting center" has the same meaning as "counting center" in RCW [29A.04.019](#);
- (b) "Voting center" means a voting center as described in RCW [29A.40.160](#); and
- (c) "Student engagement hub" means a student engagement hub as described in RCW [29A.40.180](#).

RCW 9.41.290

State preemption.

The state of Washington hereby fully occupies and preempts the entire field of firearms regulation within the boundaries of the state, including the registration, licensing, possession, purchase, sale, acquisition, transfer, discharge, and transportation of firearms, or any other element relating to firearms or parts thereof, including ammunition and reloader components. Cities, towns, and counties or other municipalities may enact only those laws and ordinances relating to firearms that are specifically authorized by state law, as in RCW [9.41.300](#), and are consistent with this chapter. Such local ordinances shall have the same penalty as provided for by state law. Local laws and ordinances that are inconsistent with, more restrictive than, or exceed the requirements of state law shall not be enacted and are preempted and repealed, regardless of the nature of the code, charter, or home rule status of such city, town, county, or municipality.

RCW 9.41.300

Weapons prohibited in certain places—Local laws and ordinances—Exceptions—Penalty.

(1) It is unlawful for any person to enter the following places when he or she knowingly possesses or knowingly has under his or her control a weapon:

(a) The restricted access areas of a jail, or of a law enforcement facility, or any place used for the confinement of a person (i) arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense, (ii) held for extradition or as a material witness, or (iii) otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a court, except an order under chapter [13.32A](#) or [13.34](#) RCW. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress or ingress open to the general public;

(b) Those areas in any building which are used in connection with court proceedings, including courtrooms, jury rooms, judge's chambers, offices and areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court proceedings. The restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress and egress to the building. The restricted areas shall be the minimum necessary to fulfill the objective of this subsection (1)(b).

For purposes of this subsection (1)(b), "weapon" means any firearm, explosive as defined in RCW [70.74.010](#), or any weapon of the kind usually known as slungshot, sand club, or metal knuckles, or any knife, dagger, dirk, or other similar weapon that

is capable of causing death or bodily injury and is commonly used with the intent to cause death or bodily injury.

In addition, the local legislative authority shall provide either a stationary locked box sufficient in size for pistols and key to a weapon owner for weapon storage, or shall designate an official to receive weapons for safekeeping, during the owner's visit to restricted areas of the building. The locked box or designated official shall be located within the same building used in connection with court proceedings. The local legislative authority shall be liable for any negligence causing damage to or loss of a weapon either placed in a locked box or left with an official during the owner's visit to restricted areas of the building.

The local judicial authority shall designate and clearly mark those areas where weapons are prohibited, and shall post notices at each entrance to the building of the prohibition against weapons in the restricted areas;

(c) The restricted access areas of a public mental health facility licensed or certified by the department of health for inpatient hospital care and state institutions for the care of the mentally ill, excluding those facilities solely for evaluation and treatment. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of egress and ingress open to the general public;

(d) That portion of an establishment classified by the state liquor and cannabis board as off-limits to persons under 21 years of age; or

(e) The restricted access areas of a commercial service airport designated in the airport security plan approved by the federal transportation security administration, including passenger screening checkpoints at or beyond the point at which a passenger initiates the screening process. These areas do not include airport drives, general parking areas and walkways, and shops and areas of the terminal that are outside the screening checkpoints and that are normally open to unscreened passengers or visitors to the airport. Any restricted access area shall be clearly indicated by prominent signs indicating that firearms and other weapons are prohibited in the area.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, it is unlawful for any person to knowingly open carry a firearm or other weapon while knowingly at any permitted demonstration. This subsection (2)(a) applies whether the person carries the firearm or other weapon on his or her person or in a vehicle.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly open carry a firearm or other weapon while knowingly within 250 feet of the perimeter of a permitted demonstration after a duly authorized state or local law enforcement officer advises the person of the permitted demonstration and directs the person to leave until he or she no longer possesses or controls the firearm or other weapon. This subsection (2)(b) does not apply to any person possessing or controlling any firearm or other weapon on private property owned or leased by that person.

(c) Duly authorized federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and personnel are exempt from the provisions of this subsection (2) when carrying a firearm or other weapon in conformance with their employing agency's policy. Members of the armed forces of the United States or the state of Washington are

exempt from the provisions of this subsection (2) when carrying a firearm or other weapon in the discharge of official duty or traveling to or from official duty.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Permitted demonstration" means either: (A) A gathering for which a permit has been issued by a federal agency, state agency, or local government; or (B) a gathering of 15 or more people who are assembled for a single event at a public place that has been declared as permitted by the chief executive, sheriff, or chief of police of a local government in which the gathering occurs. A "gathering" means a demonstration, march, rally, vigil, sit-in, protest, picketing, or similar public assembly.

(ii) "Public place" means any site accessible to the general public for business, entertainment, or another lawful purpose. A "public place" includes, but is not limited to, the front, immediate area, or parking lot of any store, shop, restaurant, tavern, shopping center, or other place of business; any public building, its grounds, or surrounding area; or any public parking lot, street, right-of-way, sidewalk, public park, or other public grounds.

(iii) "Weapon" has the same meaning given in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(e) Nothing in this subsection applies to the lawful concealed carry of a firearm by a person who has a valid concealed pistol license.

(3) Cities, towns, counties, and other municipalities may enact laws and ordinances:

(a) Restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their respective jurisdictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized. Such laws and ordinances shall not abridge the right of the individual guaranteed by Article I, section 24 of the state Constitution to bear arms in defense of self or others; and

(b) Restricting the possession of firearms in any stadium or convention center, operated by a city, town, county, or other municipality, except that such restrictions shall not apply to:

(i) Any pistol in the possession of a person licensed under RCW [9.41.070](#) or exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW [9.41.060](#); or

(ii) Any showing, demonstration, or lecture involving the exhibition of firearms.

(4)(a) Cities, towns, and counties may enact ordinances restricting the areas in their respective jurisdictions in which firearms may be sold, but, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a business selling firearms may not be treated more restrictively than other businesses located within the same zone. An ordinance requiring the cessation of business within a zone shall not have a shorter grandfather period for businesses selling firearms than for any other businesses within the zone.

(b) Cities, towns, and counties may restrict the location of a business selling firearms to not less than 500 feet from primary or secondary school grounds, if the business has a storefront, has hours during which it is open for business, and posts advertisements or signs observable to passersby that firearms are available for sale.

A business selling firearms that exists as of the date a restriction is enacted under this subsection (4)(b) shall be grandfathered according to existing law.

(5) Violations of local ordinances adopted under subsection (3) of this section must have the same penalty as provided for by state law.

(6) The perimeter of the premises of any specific location covered by subsection (1) of this section shall be posted at reasonable intervals to alert the public as to the existence of any law restricting the possession of firearms on the premises.

(7) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) A person engaged in military activities sponsored by the federal or state governments, while engaged in official duties;

(b) Law enforcement personnel, except that subsection (1)(b) of this section does apply to a law enforcement officer who is present at a courthouse building as a party to an antiharassment protection order action or a domestic violence protection order action under chapter [7.105](#) or [10.99](#) RCW, or an action under Title [26](#) RCW where any party has alleged the existence of domestic violence as defined in RCW [7.105.010](#); or

(c) Security personnel while engaged in official duties.

(8) Subsection (1)(a), (b), (c), and (e) of this section does not apply to correctional personnel or community corrections officers, as long as they are employed as such, who have completed government-sponsored law enforcement firearms training, except that subsection (1)(b) of this section does apply to a correctional employee or community corrections officer who is present at a courthouse building as a party to an antiharassment protection order action or a domestic violence protection order action under chapter [7.105](#) or [10.99](#) RCW, or an action under Title [26](#) RCW where any party has alleged the existence of domestic violence as defined in RCW [7.105.010](#).

(9) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply to a person licensed pursuant to RCW [9.41.070](#) who, upon entering the place or facility, directly and promptly proceeds to the administrator of the facility or the administrator's designee and obtains written permission to possess the firearm while on the premises or checks his or her firearm. The person may reclaim the firearms upon leaving but must immediately and directly depart from the place or facility.

(10) Subsection (1)(c) of this section does not apply to any administrator or employee of the facility or to any person who, upon entering the place or facility, directly and promptly proceeds to the administrator of the facility or the administrator's designee and obtains written permission to possess the firearm while on the premises.

(11) Subsection (1)(d) of this section does not apply to the proprietor of the premises or his or her employees while engaged in their employment.

(12) Government-sponsored law enforcement firearms training must be training that correctional personnel and community corrections officers receive as part of their job requirement and reference to such training does not constitute a mandate that it be provided by the correctional facility.

(13) Any person violating subsection (1) or (2) of this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(14) "Weapon" as used in this section means any firearm, explosive as defined in RCW [70.74.010](#), or instrument or weapon listed in RCW [9.41.250](#).

RCW 9.41.305

Open carry of weapons prohibited on state capitol grounds and municipal buildings.

(1) Unless exempt under subsection (3) of this section, it is unlawful for any person to knowingly open carry a firearm or other weapon, as defined in RCW [9.41.300](#)(1)(b), while knowingly being in the following locations:

(a) The west state capitol campus grounds; any buildings on the state capitol grounds; any state legislative office; or any location of a public state legislative hearing or meeting during the hearing or meeting; or

(b) City, town, county, or other municipality buildings used in connection with meetings of the governing body of the city, town, county, or other municipality, or any location of a public meeting or hearing of the governing body of a city, town, county, or other municipality during the hearing or meeting.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Buildings on the state capitol grounds" means the following buildings located on the state capitol grounds, commonly known as Legislative, Temple of Justice, John L. O'Brien, John A. Cherberg, Irving R. Newhouse, Joel M. Pritchard, Helen Sommers, Insurance, Governor's Mansion, Visitor Information Center, Carlyon House, Ayer House, General Administration, 1500 Jefferson, James M. Dolliver, Old Capitol, Capitol Court, State Archives, Natural Resources, Office Building #2, Highway-License, Transportation, Employment Security, Child Care Center, Union Avenue, Washington Street, Professional Arts, State Farm, and Powerhouse Buildings.

(b) "Governing body" has the same meaning as in RCW [42.30.020](#).

(c) "West state capitol campus grounds" means areas of the campus south of Powerhouse Rd. SW, south of Union Avenue SW as extended westward to Powerhouse Rd. SW, west of Capitol Way, north of 15th Avenue SW between Capitol Way S. and Water Street SW, west of Water Street between 15th Avenue SW and 16th Avenue SW, north of 16th Avenue SW between Water Street SW and the east banks of Capitol Lake, and east of the banks of Capitol Lake.

(3) Duly authorized federal, state, or local law enforcement officers or personnel are exempt from this section when carrying a firearm or other weapon in conformance with their employing agency's policy. Members of the armed forces of the United States or the state of Washington are exempt from this section when carrying a firearm or other weapon in the discharge of official duty or traveling to or from official duty.

(4) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Second and subsequent violations of this section are a gross misdemeanor.

(5) Nothing in this section applies to the lawful concealed carry of a firearm by a person who has a valid concealed pistol license.

(6) A city, town, county, or other municipality must post signs providing notice of the restrictions on possession of firearms and other weapons under this section at any locations specified in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

RCW 9.41.310

Information pamphlet.

(1) After a public hearing, the department of fish and wildlife shall publish a pamphlet on firearms safety and the legal limits of the use of firearms. The pamphlet shall include current information on firearms laws and regulations and state preemption of local firearms laws. By July 1, 2017, the department of fish and wildlife shall update the pamphlet to incorporate information on suicide awareness and prevention as recommended by the safe homes task force established in *RCW [43.70.445](#).

(2) This pamphlet may be used in the department's hunter safety education program and shall be provided to the department of licensing for distribution to firearms dealers and persons authorized to issue concealed pistol licenses. The department of fish and wildlife shall reimburse the department of licensing for costs associated with distribution of the pamphlet.

RCW 9.41.320

Fireworks.

Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the possession, sale, or use of fireworks when possessed, sold, or used in compliance with chapter [70.77](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.325

Undetectable or untraceable firearms—Penalties.

(1) No person may knowingly or recklessly allow, facilitate, aid, or abet the manufacture or assembly of an undetectable firearm or untraceable firearm by a person who: (a) Is ineligible under state or federal law to possess a firearm; or (b) has signed a valid voluntary waiver of firearm rights that has not been revoked under RCW [9.41.350](#). For purposes of this provision, the failure to conduct a background check as provided in RCW [9.41.113](#) shall be prima facie evidence of recklessness.

(2)(a) Any person violating this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

(b) If a person previously has been found guilty under this section, then the person is guilty of a class C felony punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each subsequent knowing violation of this section. A person is guilty of a separate offense for each and every firearm to which this section applies.

RCW 9.41.326

Untraceable firearms—Exceptions—Penalties.

(1) No person may manufacture, cause to be manufactured, assemble, or cause to be assembled an untraceable firearm.

(2) After March 10, 2023, no person may knowingly or recklessly possess, transport, or receive an untraceable firearm, unless the party possessing,

transporting, or receiving the untraceable firearm is a law enforcement agency or a federal firearms importer, federal firearms manufacturer, or federal firearms dealer.

(3) No person may sell, offer to sell, transfer, or purchase an untraceable firearm.

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to any firearm that:

(a) Has been rendered permanently inoperable;

(b) Is an antique firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 921(a)(16);

(c) Was manufactured before 1968; or

(d) Has been imprinted by a federal firearms dealer or other federal licensee authorized to provide marking services as provided for in RCW [9.41.328](#).

(5)(a) Any person who violates this section commits a civil infraction and shall be assessed a monetary penalty of \$500.

(b) If a person previously has been found to have violated this section, then the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each subsequent violation of this section.

(c) If a person previously has been found to have violated this section two or more times, then the person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each subsequent violation of this section.

(d) If a person violates this section by manufacturing, causing to be manufactured, assembling, causing to be assembled, possessing, transporting, receiving, selling, offering to sell, transferring, or purchasing three or more untraceable firearms at a time, then the person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each violation of this section.

(e) A person commits a separate violation of this section for each and every firearm to which this section applies.

RCW 9.41.327

Unfinished frames or receivers—Exceptions—Penalties.

(1) After March 10, 2023, no person may knowingly or recklessly possess, transport, or receive an unfinished frame or receiver, unless: (a) The party possessing, transporting, or receiving the unfinished frame or receiver is a law enforcement agency or a federal firearms importer, federal firearms manufacturer, or federal firearms dealer; or (b) the unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number issued by a federal firearms importer, federal firearms manufacturer, or federal firearms dealer.

(2) No person may sell, offer to sell, transfer, or purchase an unfinished frame or receiver, unless: (a) The party purchasing the unfinished frame or receiver is a federal firearms importer, federal firearms manufacturer, or federal firearms dealer; or (b) the unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number issued by a federal firearms importer, federal firearms manufacturer, or federal firearms dealer.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to any unfinished frame or receiver that has been imprinted by a federal firearms dealer or other federal licensee authorized to provide marking services as provided for in RCW [9.41.328](#).

(4)(a) Any person who violates this section commits a civil infraction and shall be assessed a monetary penalty of \$500.

(b) If a person previously has been found to have violated this section, then the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each subsequent violation of this section.

(c) If a person previously has been found to have violated this section two or more times, then the person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each subsequent violation of this section.

(d) If a person violates this section by possessing, transporting, receiving, selling, offering to sell, transferring, or purchasing three or more unfinished frames or receivers at a time, then the person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW for each violation of this section.

(e) A person commits a separate violation of this section for each and every unfinished frame or receiver to which this section applies.

RCW 9.41.328

Imprinting a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver.

(1) A federal firearms dealer or other federal licensee authorized to provide marking services for firearms may imprint a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver with a serial number.

(2) The firearm or unfinished frame or receiver shall be imprinted with the licensee's abbreviated federal firearms license number as a prefix (which is the first three and last five digits) followed by a hyphen, and then followed by a number as a suffix, e.g., "12345678-(number)." The serial number must be placed in a manner that accords with the requirements under federal law for affixing serial numbers to firearms, including the requirements that the serial number be at the minimum size and depth, and not susceptible to being readily obliterated, altered, or removed.

(3) The serial number must not duplicate any serial numbers placed by the federal firearms dealer or other federal licensee on any other firearm or unfinished frame or receiver.

(4) Whenever a federal firearms dealer or other federal licensee imprints a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver with a serial number, the licensee shall retain records that accord with the requirements under federal law in the case of the sale of a firearm.

RCW 9.41.330

Felony firearm offenders—Determination of registration.

(1) On or after June 9, 2016, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, whenever a defendant in this state is convicted of a felony firearm offense or found not guilty by reason of insanity of any felony firearm offense, the court must consider whether to impose a requirement that the person comply with the registration requirements of RCW [9.41.333](#) and may, in its discretion, impose such a requirement.

(2) In determining whether to require the person to register, the court shall consider all relevant factors including, but not limited to:

(a) The person's criminal history;

(b) Whether the person has previously been found not guilty by reason of insanity of any offense in this state or elsewhere; and

(c) Evidence of the person's propensity for violence that would likely endanger persons.

(3) When a person is convicted of a felony firearm offense or found not guilty by reason of insanity of any felony firearm offense that was committed in conjunction with any of the following offenses, the court must impose a requirement that the person comply with the registration requirements of RCW [9.41.333](#):

(a) An offense involving sexual motivation;

(b) An offense committed against a child under the age of eighteen; or

(c) A serious violent offense.

(4) For purposes of this section, "sexual motivation" and "serious violent offense" are defined as in RCW [9.94A.030](#).

RCW 9.41.333

Duty to register—Requirements.

(1) Any adult or juvenile residing, whether or not the person has a fixed residence, in this state who has been required by a court to comply with the registration requirements of this section shall personally register with the county sheriff for the county of the person's residence.

(2) A person required to register under this section must provide the following information when registering:

(a) Name and any aliases used;

(b) Complete and accurate residence address or, if the person lacks a fixed residence, where he or she plans to stay;

(c) Identifying information of the gun offender, including a physical description;

(d) The offense for which the person was convicted;

(e) Date and place of conviction; and

(f) The names of any other county where the offender has registered pursuant to this section.

(3) The county sheriff may require the offender to provide documentation that verifies the contents of his or her registration.

(4) The county sheriff may take the offender's photograph or fingerprints for the inclusion of such record in the registration.

(5) Felony firearm offenders shall register with the county sheriff not later than forty-eight hours after:

(a) The date of release from custody, as a result of the felony firearm offense, of the state department of corrections, the state department of social and health services, a local division of youth services, or a local jail or juvenile detention facility; or

(b) The date the court imposes the felony firearm offender's sentence, if the offender receives a sentence that does not include confinement.

(6)(a) Except as described in (b) of this subsection, the felony firearm offender shall register with the county sheriff not later than twenty days after each twelve-month anniversary of the date the offender is first required to register, as described in subsection (5) of this section.

(b) If the felony firearm offender is confined to any correctional institution, state institution or facility, or health care facility throughout the twenty-day period described in (a) of this subsection, the offender shall personally appear before the county sheriff not later than forty-eight hours after release to verify and update, as appropriate, his or her registration.

(7) If the felony firearm offender changes his or her residence address and his or her new residence address is within this state, the offender shall personally register with the county sheriff for the county of the person's residence not later than forty-eight hours after the change of address. If the offender's residence address is within the same county as the offender's immediately preceding address, the offender shall update the contents of his or her current registration.

(8) The duty to register shall continue for a period of four years from the date the offender is first required to register, as described in subsection (5) of this section.

RCW 9.41.335

Failure to register as felony firearm offender.

(1) A person commits the crime of failure to register as a felony firearm offender if the person has a duty to register under RCW [9.41.333](#) and knowingly fails to comply with any of the requirements of RCW [9.41.333](#).

(2) Failure to register as a felony firearm offender is a gross misdemeanor.

RCW 9.41.340

Return of privately owned firearm by law enforcement agency—Notification to family or household member—Exception—Exemption from public disclosure—Civil liability—Liability for request based on false information.

(1) Each law enforcement agency shall develop a notification protocol that allows a family or household member or intimate partner to use an incident or case number to request to be notified when a law enforcement agency returns a privately owned firearm to the individual from whom it was obtained or to an authorized representative of that person.

(a) Notification may be made via telephone, email, text message, or another method that allows notification to be provided without unnecessary delay.

(b) If a law enforcement agency is in possession of more than one privately owned firearm from a single person, notification relating to the return of one firearm shall be considered notification for all privately owned firearms for that person.

(2) A law enforcement agency shall not provide notification to any party other than a family or household member or intimate partner who has an incident or case

number and who has requested to be notified pursuant to this section or another criminal justice agency.

(3) The information provided by a family or household member or intimate partner pursuant to chapter 130, Laws of 2015, including the existence of the request for notification, is not subject to public disclosure pursuant to chapter [42.56](#) RCW.

(4) An appointed or elected official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW [4.24.470](#), or combination of units of local government and its employees, as provided in RCW [36.28A.010](#), are immune from civil liability for damages for any release of information or the failure to release information related to this section, so long as the release or failure was without gross negligence.

(5) An individual who knowingly makes a request for notification under this section based on false information may be held liable under RCW [9A.76.175](#).

RCW 9.41.345

Return of privately owned firearm or concealed pistol license by law enforcement agency—Duties—Notice—Exception.

(1) Before a law enforcement agency returns a privately owned firearm, the law enforcement agency must:

(a) Confirm that the individual to whom the firearm will be returned is the individual from whom the firearm was obtained or an authorized representative of that person;

(b) Confirm that the individual to whom the firearm will be returned is eligible to possess a firearm pursuant to RCW [9.41.040](#);

(c) Ensure that the firearm is not otherwise required to be held in custody or otherwise prohibited from being released; and

(d) Ensure that twenty-four hours have elapsed from the time the firearm was obtained by law enforcement, unless the firearm was seized in connection with a domestic violence call pursuant to RCW [10.99.030](#), in which case the law enforcement agency must ensure that five business days have elapsed from the time the firearm was obtained.

(2)(a) Once the requirements in subsections (1) and (3) of this section have been met, a law enforcement agency must release a firearm to the individual from whom it was obtained or an authorized representative of that person upon request without unnecessary delay.

(b)(i) If a firearm cannot be returned because it is required to be held in custody or is otherwise prohibited from being released, a law enforcement agency must provide written notice to the individual from whom it was obtained within five business days of the individual requesting return of his or her firearm and specify the reason the firearm must be held in custody.

(ii) Notification may be made via email, text message, mail service, or personal service. For methods other than personal service, service shall be considered complete once the notification is sent.

(3) If a family or household member or intimate partner has requested to be notified pursuant to RCW [9.41.340](#), a law enforcement agency must:

(a) Provide notice to the family or household member or intimate partner within one business day of verifying that the requirements in subsection (1) of this section have been met; and

(b) Hold the firearm in custody for seventy-two hours from the time notification has been provided.

(4)(a) A law enforcement agency may not return a concealed pistol license that has been surrendered to, or impounded by, the law enforcement agency for any reason to the licensee until the law enforcement agency determines the licensee is eligible to possess a firearm under state and federal law and meets the other eligibility requirements for a concealed pistol license under RCW [9.41.070](#).

(b) A law enforcement agency must release a concealed pistol license to the licensee without unnecessary delay, and in no case longer than five business days, after the law enforcement agency determines the requirements of (a) of this subsection have been met.

(5) The provisions of chapter 130, Laws of 2015 and subsection (4) of this section shall not apply to circumstances where a law enforcement officer has momentarily obtained a firearm or concealed pistol license from an individual and would otherwise immediately return the firearm or concealed pistol license to the individual during the same interaction.

RCW 9.41.350

Voluntary waiver of firearm rights—Procedure—Penalty—Exemption from public disclosure.

(1) A person may file a voluntary waiver of firearm rights with the clerk of the court in any county in Washington state. The clerk of the court must request photo identification to verify the person's identity prior to accepting the form. The person filing the form may provide an alternate person to be contacted if a voluntary waiver of firearm rights is revoked. By the end of the business day, the clerk of the court must transmit the accepted form to the Washington state patrol. The Washington state patrol must enter the voluntary waiver of firearm rights into the national instant criminal background check system and any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement agencies or others to identify prohibited purchasers of firearms within twenty-four hours of receipt of the form. Copies and records of the voluntary waiver of firearm rights shall not be disclosed except to law enforcement agencies.

(2) No sooner than seven calendar days after filing a voluntary waiver of firearm rights, the person may file a revocation of the voluntary waiver of firearm rights in the same county where the voluntary waiver of firearm rights was filed. The clerk of the court must request photo identification to verify the person's identity prior to accepting the form. By the end of the business day, the clerk of the court must transmit the form to the Washington state patrol and to any contact person listed on the voluntary waiver of firearm rights and destroy all records of the voluntary

waiver. Within seven days of receiving a revocation of a voluntary waiver of firearm rights, the Washington state patrol must remove the person from the national instant criminal background check system, and any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement agencies or others to identify prohibited purchasers of firearms in which the person was entered, unless the person is otherwise ineligible to possess a firearm under RCW [9.41.040](#), and destroy all records of the voluntary waiver.

(3) A person who knowingly makes a false statement regarding their identity on the voluntary waiver of firearm rights form or revocation of waiver of firearm rights form is guilty of false swearing under RCW [9A.72.040](#).

(4) Neither a voluntary waiver of firearm rights nor a revocation of a voluntary waiver of firearm rights shall be considered by a court in any legal proceeding.

(5) A voluntary waiver of firearm rights may not be required of an individual as a condition for receiving employment, benefits, or services.

(6) All records obtained and all reports produced, as required by this section, are not subject to disclosure through the public records act under chapter [42.56](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.352

Voluntary waiver of firearm rights—Form—Availability.

(1) The administrator for the courts, under the direction of the chief justice, shall develop a voluntary waiver of firearm rights form and a revocation of voluntary waiver of firearm rights form by January 1, 2019.

(2) The forms must include all of the information necessary for identification and entry of the person into the national instant criminal background check system, and any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement agencies or others to identify prohibited purchasers of firearms. The voluntary waiver of firearm rights form must include the following language:

Because you have filed this voluntary waiver of firearm rights, effective immediately you may not purchase or receive any firearm. You may revoke this voluntary waiver of firearm rights any time after at least seven calendar days have elapsed since the time of filing.

(3) The forms must be made available on the administrator for the courts website, at all county clerk offices, and must also be made widely available at firearm and ammunition dealers and health care provider locations.

RCW 9.41.360

Unsafe storage of a firearm.

(1) A person who stores or leaves a firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a prohibited person may gain access to the firearm:

(a) Is guilty of community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm in the first degree if a prohibited person obtains access and possession of the firearm and causes personal injury or death with the firearm; or

(b) Is guilty of community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm in the second degree if a prohibited person obtains access and possession of the firearm and:

(i) Causes the firearm to discharge;

(ii) Carries, exhibits, or displays the firearm in a public place in a manner that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons; or

(iii) Uses the firearm in the commission of a crime.

(2)(a) Community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm in the first degree is a class C felony punishable according to chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

(b) Community endangerment due to unsafe storage of a firearm in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor punishable according to chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply if:

(a) The firearm was in secure gun storage, or secured with a trigger lock or similar device that is designed to prevent the unauthorized use or discharge of the firearm;

(b) In the case of a person who is a prohibited person on the basis of the person's age, access to the firearm is with the lawful permission of the prohibited person's parent or guardian and supervised by an adult, or is in accordance with RCW [9.41.042](#);

(c) The prohibited person obtains, or obtains and discharges, the firearm in a lawful act of self-defense; or

(d) The prohibited person's access to the firearm was obtained as a result of an unlawful entry, provided that the unauthorized access or theft of the firearm is reported to a local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which the unauthorized access or theft occurred within five days of the time the victim of the unlawful entry knew or reasonably should have known that the firearm had been taken.

(4) If a death or serious injury occurs as a result of an alleged violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section, the prosecuting attorney may decline to prosecute, even though technically sufficient evidence to prosecute exists, in situations where prosecution would serve no public purpose or would defeat the purpose of the law in question.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "prohibited person" means a person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law.

(6) Nothing in this section mandates how or where a firearm must be stored.

RCW 9.41.365

Firearm security and storage—Requirements for dealers.

(1) When selling or transferring any firearm, every dealer shall offer to sell or give the purchaser or transferee a secure gun storage device, or a trigger lock or similar device that is designed to prevent the unauthorized use or discharge of the firearm.

(2) Every store, shop, or sales outlet where firearms are sold, that is registered as a dealer in firearms with the department of licensing, shall conspicuously post, in a prominent location so that all patrons may take notice, the following warning sign, to be provided by the department of licensing, in block letters at least one inch in height:

WARNING: YOU MAY FACE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IF YOU STORE OR LEAVE AN UNSECURED FIREARM WHERE A PERSON WHO IS PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING FIREARMS CAN AND DOES OBTAIN POSSESSION.

(3) Every store, shop, or sales outlet where firearms are sold that is registered as a dealer in firearms with the department of licensing, upon the sale or transfer of a firearm, shall deliver a written warning to the purchaser or transferee that states, in block letters not less than one-fourth inch in height:

WARNING: YOU MAY FACE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IF YOU STORE OR LEAVE AN UNSECURED FIREARM WHERE A PERSON WHO IS PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING FIREARMS CAN AND DOES OBTAIN POSSESSION.

(4) Every person who violates this section is guilty of a class 1 civil infraction under chapter [7.80](#) RCW and may be fined up to two hundred fifty dollars. However, no such fines may be levied until thirty days have expired from the time warning signs required under subsection (2) of this section are distributed by the department of licensing.

RCW 9.41.370

Large capacity magazines—Exceptions—Penalty.

(1) No person in this state may manufacture, import, distribute, sell, or offer for sale any large capacity magazine, except as authorized in this section.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to any of the following:

(a) The manufacture, importation, distribution, offer for sale, or sale of a large capacity magazine by a licensed firearms manufacturer for the purposes of sale to any branch of the armed forces of the United States or the state of Washington, or to a law enforcement agency in this state for use by that agency or its employees for law enforcement purposes;

(b) The importation, distribution, offer for sale, or sale of a large capacity magazine by a dealer that is properly licensed under federal and state law for the purpose of sale to any branch of the armed forces of the United States or the state of Washington, or to a law enforcement agency in this state for use by that agency or its employees for law enforcement purposes;

(c) The distribution, offer for sale, or sale of a large capacity magazine to or by a dealer that is properly licensed under federal and state law where the dealer acquires the large capacity magazine from a person legally authorized to possess or transfer the large capacity magazine for the purpose of selling or transferring the large capacity magazine to a person who does not reside in this state.

(3) A person who violates this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.375

Large capacity magazines—Unfair method of competition.

Distributing, selling, offering for sale, or facilitating the sale, distribution, or transfer of a large capacity magazine online is an unfair or deceptive act or practice or unfair method of competition in the conduct of trade or commerce for purposes of the consumer protection act, chapter [19.86](#) RCW.

RCW 9.41.380

Safe storage of firearms expansion encouraged—No special relationship created by dealer storage.

(1) In order to better prevent suicide by veterans, military members, and their families, an expansion of safe storage of firearms and reduced access to lethal means in the community is encouraged.

(2) A dealer who provides a service of allowing a person to temporarily store a firearm on the dealer's premises in a storage locker, box, or container that is locked and not accessible to the dealer does not thereby create a special relationship, for civil liability purposes, between the dealer and the person who temporarily stores the firearm on the dealer's premises.

RCW 9.41.800

Surrender of weapons or licenses—Prohibition on future possession or licensing.

(1) Any court when entering an order authorized under chapter [7.105](#) RCW, RCW [9A.46.080](#), [10.99.040](#), [10.99.045](#), [26.09.050](#), [26.09.060](#), [26.26B.020](#), or [26.26A.470](#) shall, upon a showing by a preponderance of the evidence, that a party has: Used, displayed, or threatened to use a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a felony, or is ineligible to possess a firearm under the provisions of RCW [9.41.040](#):

(a) Require that the party immediately surrender all firearms and other dangerous weapons;

(b) Require that the party immediately surrender any concealed pistol license issued under RCW [9.41.070](#);

(c) Prohibit the party from accessing, having in his or her custody or control, possessing, purchasing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, any firearms or other dangerous weapons;

(d) Prohibit the party from obtaining or possessing a concealed pistol license;

(e) Other than for ex parte temporary protection orders, unless the ex parte temporary protection order was reissued after the party received noticed and had an opportunity to be heard, direct law enforcement to revoke any concealed pistol license issued to the party.

(2) During any period of time that the party is subject to a court order issued under chapter [7.105](#), 9A.46, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or [26.26B](#) RCW that:

(a) Was issued after a hearing of which the party received actual notice, and at which the party had an opportunity to participate, whether the court then issues a full order or reissues a temporary order. If the court enters an agreed order by the parties without a hearing, such an order meets the requirements of this subsection;

(b) Restrains the party from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner of the party, the protected person, or child of the intimate partner, party, or protected person, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner or protected person in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the intimate partner, protected person, or child; and

(c)(i) Includes a finding that the party represents a credible threat to the physical safety of the intimate partner, protected person, or child; or

(ii) By its terms, explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the intimate partner, protected person, or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury, the court shall:

(A) Require that the party immediately surrender all firearms and other dangerous weapons;

(B) Require that the party immediately surrender a concealed pistol license issued under RCW [9.41.070](#);

(C) Prohibit the party from accessing, having in his or her custody or control, possessing, purchasing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, any firearms or other dangerous weapons; and

(D) Prohibit the party from obtaining or possessing a concealed pistol license.

(3) The court may order temporary surrender and prohibit the purchase of all firearms and other dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license, without notice to the other party if it finds, on the basis of the moving affidavit or other evidence, that irreparable injury could result if an order is not issued until the time for response has elapsed.

(4) In addition to the provisions of subsections (1) and (3) of this section, the court may enter an order requiring a party to comply with the provisions in subsection (1) of this section if it finds that the possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon by any party presents a serious and imminent threat to public health or safety, or to the health or safety of any individual.

(5) The requirements of subsections (1) and (4) of this section may be for a period of time less than the duration of the order.

(6) The court shall require the party to surrender all firearms and other dangerous weapons in his or her immediate possession or control or subject to his or her immediate possession or control, and any concealed pistol license issued under RCW [9.41.070](#), to the local law enforcement agency. Law enforcement officers shall use law enforcement databases to assist in locating the party in situations where the protected person does not know where the party lives or where there is evidence that the party is trying to evade service.

(7) If the court enters a protection order, restraining order, or no-contact order that includes an order to surrender firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license under this section:

(a) The order must be served by a law enforcement officer; and

(b) Law enforcement must immediately ensure entry of the order to surrender and prohibit weapons and the revocation of any concealed pistol license is made

into the appropriate databases making the party ineligible to possess firearms and a concealed pistol license.

RCW 9.41.801

Surrender of weapons or licenses—Ensuring compliance.

(1) Because of the heightened risk of lethality to petitioners when respondents to protection orders become aware of court involvement and continue to have access to firearms, and the frequency of noncompliance with court orders prohibiting possession of firearms, law enforcement and judicial processes must emphasize swift and certain compliance with court orders prohibiting access, possession, and ownership of all firearms.

(2) A law enforcement officer serving a protection order, no-contact order, or restraining order that includes an order to surrender all firearms, dangerous weapons, and a concealed pistol license under RCW [9.41.800](#) shall inform the respondent that the order is effective upon service and the respondent must immediately surrender all firearms and dangerous weapons in the respondent's custody, control, or possession and any concealed pistol license issued under RCW [9.41.070](#), and conduct any search permitted by law for such firearms, dangerous weapons, and concealed pistol license. The law enforcement officer shall take possession of all firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license belonging to the respondent that are surrendered, in plain sight, or discovered pursuant to a lawful search. If the order is entered in open court and the respondent appears in person, the respondent shall be provided a copy and further service is not required. If the respondent refuses to receive a copy, an agent of the court may indicate on the record that the respondent refused to receive a copy of the order. If the respondent appears remotely for the hearing, or leaves the hearing before a final ruling is issued or order signed, and the court believes the respondent has sufficient notice such that additional service is not necessary, the order must recite that the respondent appeared before the court, has actual notice of the order, the necessity for further service is waived, and proof of service of the order is not necessary. The court shall enter the service and receipt into the record. A copy of the order and service shall be transmitted immediately to law enforcement. The respondent must immediately surrender all firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license in a safe manner to the control of the local law enforcement agency on the day of the hearing at which the respondent was present in person or remotely. Alternatively, if personal service by a law enforcement officer is not possible, and the respondent did not appear in person or remotely at the hearing, the respondent shall surrender the firearms in a safe manner to the control of the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of being served with the order by alternate service.

(3) At the time of surrender, a law enforcement officer taking possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license shall issue a receipt identifying all firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license that have been surrendered and provide a copy of the receipt to the respondent. The law

enforcement agency shall file the original receipt with the court within 24 hours after service of the order and retain a copy of the receipt, electronically whenever electronic filing is available.

(4) Upon the sworn statement or testimony of the petitioner or of any law enforcement officer alleging that the respondent has failed to comply with the surrender of firearms or dangerous weapons as required by an order issued under RCW [9.41.800](#), the court shall determine whether probable cause exists to believe that the respondent has failed to surrender all firearms and dangerous weapons in their possession, custody, or control. If probable cause exists that a crime occurred, the court shall issue a warrant describing the firearms or dangerous weapons and authorizing a search of the locations where the firearms and dangerous weapons are reasonably believed to be and the seizure of all firearms and dangerous weapons discovered pursuant to such search.

(5) If a person other than the respondent claims title to any firearms or dangerous weapons surrendered pursuant to this section, and the person is determined by the law enforcement agency to be the lawful owner of the firearm or dangerous weapon, the firearm or dangerous weapon shall be returned to the lawful owner, provided that:

(a) The firearm or dangerous weapon is removed from the respondent's access, custody, control, or possession and the lawful owner agrees by written document signed under penalty of perjury to store the firearm or dangerous weapon in a manner such that the respondent does not have access to or control of the firearm or dangerous weapon;

(b) The firearm or dangerous weapon is not otherwise unlawfully possessed by the owner; and

(c) The requirements of RCW [9.41.345](#) are met.

(6) Courts shall develop procedures to verify timely and complete compliance with orders to surrender and prohibit weapons under RCW [9.41.800](#), including compliance review hearings to be held as soon as possible upon receipt from law enforcement of proof of service. A compliance review hearing is not required if the court can otherwise enter findings on the record or enter written findings that the proof of surrender or declaration of nonsurrender attested to by the person subject to the order, along with verification from law enforcement and any other relevant evidence, makes a sufficient showing that the person has timely and completely surrendered all firearms and dangerous weapons in the person's custody, control, or possession, and any concealed pistol license issued under RCW [9.41.070](#), to a law enforcement agency. If the court does not have a sufficient record before it on which to make such a finding, the court must set a review hearing to occur as soon as possible at which the respondent must be present and provide proof of compliance with the court's order. Courts shall make available forms that petitioners may complete and submit to the court in response to a respondent's declaration of whether the respondent has surrendered weapons.

(7)(a) If a court finds at the compliance review hearing, or any other hearing where compliance with the order to surrender and prohibit weapons is addressed,

that there is probable cause to believe the respondent was aware of and failed to fully comply with the order, failed to appear at the compliance review hearing, or violated the order after the court entered findings of compliance, pursuant to its authority under chapter [7.21](#) RCW, the court may initiate a contempt proceeding to impose remedial sanctions on its own motion, or upon the motion of the prosecutor, city attorney, or the petitioner's counsel, and issue an order requiring the respondent to appear, provide proof of compliance with the order, and show cause why the respondent should not be held in contempt of court.

(b) If the respondent is not present in court at the compliance review hearing or if the court issues an order to appear and show cause after a compliance review hearing, the clerk of the court shall electronically transmit a copy of the order to show cause to the law enforcement agency where the respondent resides for personal service or service in the manner provided in the civil rules of superior court or applicable statute. Law enforcement shall also serve a copy of the order to show cause on the petitioner, either electronically or in person, at no cost.

(c) The order to show cause served upon the respondent shall state the date, time, and location of the hearing and shall include a warning that the respondent may be held in contempt of court if the respondent fails to promptly comply with the terms of the order to surrender and prohibit weapons and a warning that an arrest warrant could be issued if the respondent fails to appear on the date and time provided in the order.

(d)(i) At the show cause hearing, the respondent must be present and provide proof of compliance with the underlying court order to surrender and prohibit weapons and demonstrate why the relief requested should not be granted.

(ii) The court shall take judicial notice of the receipt filed with the court by the law enforcement agency pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. The court shall also provide sufficient notice to the law enforcement agency of the hearing. Upon receiving notice pursuant to this subsection, a law enforcement agency must:

(A) Provide the court with a complete list of firearms and other dangerous weapons surrendered by the respondent or otherwise belonging to the respondent that are in the possession of the law enforcement agency; and

(B) Provide the court with verification that any concealed pistol license issued to the respondent has been surrendered and the agency with authority to revoke the license has been notified.

(iii) If the law enforcement agency has a reasonable suspicion that the respondent is not in full compliance with the terms of the order, the law enforcement agency must submit the basis for its belief to the court, and may do so through the filing of a declaration.

(e) If the court finds the respondent in contempt, the court may impose remedial sanctions designed to ensure swift compliance with the order to surrender and prohibit weapons.

(f) The court may order a respondent found in contempt of the order to surrender and prohibit weapons to pay for any losses incurred by a party in connection with the contempt proceeding, including reasonable attorneys' fees,

service fees, and other costs. The costs of the proceeding shall not be borne by the petitioner.

(8)(a) To help ensure that accurate and comprehensive information about firearms compliance is provided to judicial officers, a representative from either the prosecuting attorney's office or city attorney's office, or both, from the relevant jurisdiction may appear and be heard at any hearing that concerns compliance with an order to surrender and prohibit weapons issued in connection with another type of protection order.

(b) Either the prosecuting attorney's office or city attorney's office, or both, from the relevant jurisdiction may designate an advocate or a staff person from their office who is not an attorney to appear on behalf of their office. Such appearance does not constitute the unauthorized practice of law.

(9)(a) An order to surrender and prohibit weapons issued pursuant to RCW [9.41.800](#) must state that the act of voluntarily surrendering firearms or weapons, or providing testimony relating to the surrender of firearms or weapons, pursuant to such an order, may not be used against the respondent in any criminal prosecution under this chapter, chapter [7.105](#) RCW, or RCW [9A.56.310](#).

(b) To provide relevant information to the court to determine compliance with the order, the court may allow the prosecuting attorney or city attorney to question the respondent regarding compliance.

(10) All law enforcement agencies must have policies and procedures to provide for the acceptance, storage, and return of firearms, dangerous weapons, and concealed pistol licenses that a court requires must be surrendered under RCW [9.41.800](#). A law enforcement agency holding any firearm or concealed pistol license that has been surrendered under RCW [9.41.800](#) shall comply with the provisions of RCW [9.41.340](#) and [9.41.345](#) before the return of the firearm or concealed pistol license to the owner or individual from whom it was obtained.

(11) The administrative office of the courts shall create a statewide pattern form to assist the courts in ensuring timely and complete compliance in a consistent manner with orders issued under this chapter. The administrative office of the courts shall report annually on the number of orders issued under this chapter by each court, the degree of compliance, and the number of firearms obtained, and may make recommendations regarding additional procedures to enhance compliance and victim safety.

RCW 9.41.802

Proof of surrender and receipt pattern form—Declaration of nonsurrender pattern form—Administrative office of the courts to develop.

By December 1, 2014, the administrative office of the courts shall develop a proof of surrender and receipt pattern form to be used to document that a respondent has complied with a requirement to surrender firearms, dangerous weapons, and his or her concealed pistol license, as ordered by a court under RCW [9.41.800](#). The administrative office of the courts must also develop a

declaration of nonsurrender pattern form to document compliance when the respondent has no firearms, dangerous weapons, or concealed pistol license.

RCW 9.41.804

Proof of surrender and receipt form, declaration of nonsurrender form—Requirement to file with clerk of the court.

A party ordered to surrender firearms, dangerous weapons, and his or her concealed pistol license under RCW [9.41.800](#) must file with the clerk of the court a proof of surrender and receipt form or a declaration of nonsurrender form within five judicial days of the entry of the order.

RCW 9.41.810

Penalty.

Any violation of any provision of this chapter, except as otherwise provided, shall be a misdemeanor and punishable accordingly.

RCW 9.41.815

Surrender of weapons or licenses—Ensuring compliance—Information sharing.

For the purpose of assisting courts in ensuring compliance with an order to surrender and prohibit weapons or an extreme risk protection order, the department of licensing, or the agency with responsibility for maintaining that information should it be an agency other than the department of licensing, shall make the following information available to prosecuting attorneys' offices, city attorneys' offices, public defender agency staff, probation services personnel, and judicial officers and staff of municipal, district, and superior courts for the following law enforcement purposes:

- (1) Determining whether a person is ineligible to possess firearms;
- (2) Determining a person's firearms purchase history; and
- (3) Determining whether a person has or previously had a concealed pistol license, or has applied for a concealed pistol license.

RCW 9A.56.310

Possessing a stolen firearm.

- (1) A person is guilty of possessing a stolen firearm if he or she possesses, carries, delivers, sells, or is in control of a stolen firearm.
- (2) This section applies regardless of the stolen firearm's value.
- (3) Each stolen firearm possessed under this section is a separate offense.
- (4) The definition of "possessing stolen property" and the defense allowed against the prosecution for possessing stolen property under RCW [9A.56.140](#) shall apply to the crime of possessing a stolen firearm.
- (5) As used in this section, "firearm" means any firearm as defined in RCW [9.41.010](#).
- (6) Possessing a stolen firearm is a class B felony.

RCW 77.15.460

Loaded rifle or shotgun in vehicle—Unlawful use or possession—Unlawful use of a loaded firearm—Penalty.

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle, as defined in RCW [46.04.320](#), or upon an off-road vehicle, as defined in RCW [46.04.365](#), if:

(a) The person carries, transports, conveys, possesses, or controls a rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle, or upon an off-road vehicle, except as allowed by department rule; and

(b) The rifle or shotgun contains shells or cartridges in the magazine or chamber, or is a muzzle-loading firearm that is loaded and capped or primed.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a loaded firearm if:

(a) The person negligently discharges a firearm from, across, or along the maintained portion of a public highway; or

(b) The person discharges a firearm from within a moving motor vehicle or from upon a moving off-road vehicle.

(3) Unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle or upon an off-road vehicle, and unlawful use of a loaded firearm are misdemeanors.

(4) This section does not apply if the person:

(a) Is a law enforcement officer who is authorized to carry a firearm and is on duty within the officer's respective jurisdiction;

(b) Has been granted a disability designation as provided by RCW [77.32.237](#) and complies with all rules of the department concerning hunting by persons with disabilities; or

(c) Discharges the rifle or shotgun from upon a nonmoving motor vehicle, as long as the engine is turned off and the motor vehicle is not parked on or beside the maintained portion of a public road, except as authorized by the commission by rule. This subsection (4)(c) does not apply to off-road vehicles, which are unlawful to use for hunting under RCW [46.09.480](#), unless the person has a department permit issued under RCW [77.32.237](#).

(5) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, a rifle or shotgun shall not be considered loaded if the detachable clip or magazine is not inserted in or attached to the rifle or shotgun.

Pre-Emption

Counties, cities, towns, and other municipalities may enact only those laws and ordinances relating to firearms that are specifically authorized by and consistent with state law. Municipalities have been granted the power to enact ordinances restricting the discharge of firearms in certain areas. Such restrictions do not apply to firearms discharged in the lawful defense of self or others.

Consistency of Laws

Although state and local laws do not differ, federal and state law on the possession of firearms may differ. If you are prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm, you may be prosecuted in a federal court. State permission to purchase a firearm is not a defense to a federal prosecution.

Federal Airport Regulations

You may be violating federal regulations if you merely bring a firearm to an airport passenger screening checkpoint. It is a criminal offense to board or try to board an airplane with an unauthorized firearm. Declared firearms may be transported in locked bags and checked luggage, but loaded firearms may not be transported under any circumstances. For specific information and instructions, contact your airline when making flight reservations.

“A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

**Amendment Two
The Constitution of the United States**

“The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired ...”

**Article 1, Section 24
Constitution of the State of Washington**

Additional Information Sources

Washington Department of Licensing

Firearms Program
PO box 9649
Olympia WA 98507-9649
(State firearm laws)

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms

915 2nd Avenue – Room 790
Seattle WA 98174-1093
(Federal firearms laws)

National Rifle Association

11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
(General firearms information)

National Shooting Sports Foundation

Flintlock Office Center
11 Mile Hill Road
Newton CT 06470-2359
(General firearms safety information)

Federal Aviation Administration

Aviation Security Branch
1601 Lind Avenue S.W.
Renton WA 98055-4056
(Airport firearms regulations)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Hunter Education Division
PO Box 43141
Olympia WA 98504-3200

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Regional Offices

Eastern - Region 1

2315 North Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566
Telephone: 509-892-1001
Counties served – Asotin, Columbia,
Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille,
Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla,
Whitman

North Central - Region 2

1550 Alder Street NW
Ephrata, WA 98823-9699
Telephone: 509-754-4624
Counties served – Adams, Chelan,
Douglas, Grant, Okanogan

South Central - Region 3

1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Telephone: 509-575-2740
Counties served – Benton, Franklin,
Kittitas, Yakima

North Puget Sound - Region 4

16018 Mill Creek Boulevard
Mill Creek, WA 98012-1541
Telephone: 425-775-1311
Counties served – Island, King, San Juan,
Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom

Southwest - Region 5

5525 S 11th Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642
Telephone: 360-696-6211
Counties served – Clark, Cowlitz,
Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania, Wahkiakum

Coastal - Region 6

48 Devonshire Road
Montesano, WA 98563
Telephone: 360-249-4628
Counties served – Clallam, Grays Harbor,
Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce,
Thurston

It is the policy of Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to provide equal access to its programs, services, activities, and facilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. WDFW is a recipient of state and federal financial assistance.

WDFW prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, religion, national origin (including language), sex, age, mental or physical disability, reprisal, sexual orientation, status as a parent, and genetic information.

If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the WDFW Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator PO Box 43139, Olympia, WA 98504, or online within 20 calendar days of the alleged incident to file a formal complaint, or write to: Chief, Public Civil Rights Division, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

Persons with disabilities who need to receive this information in an alternative format or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator 360-902-2575 or cell - 360-870-6175, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).

If you need further assistance or information, please contact the Olympia office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: 360-902-2464, or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf TTY (711).

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