



LTC Letter to Police Chief

LETTER TO THE POLICE CHIEF

Some communities require that the applicant for a License to Carry (LTC) write a letter to the chief of police supporting the application. This letter provides you with an opportunity to make your case for the issuance of the license. In addition, near the end of page three of the LTC application, there is a section provided to state your reasons for issuance. The paragraphs below are a partial guideline for language which is appropriate.

There is no absolute best verbiage as each city/town's issuing authority is looking for different information. When you are crafting your letter/reasons keep in mind that no jurisdiction will consider the protection of property as a valid reason to have a firearm. Using a firearm to protect yourself and others from death or grave bodily harm (self-defense) is the minimum standard for use of deadly force.

There are no standards in use to guide the chief in deciding to issue the LTC and therefore there are no perfect phrases to include in your letter or reasons section. The following thoughts are typically considered to be required along with other personal items you can add.

- **Reason you want an LTC** – The only reason stated in Massachusetts gun laws is that you have **reason to fear injury to your person** or property. You need to expand on this with your personal reason for such feelings but do not go overboard. Be careful about including the word property as was previously stated. You are applying for an LTC *for all lawful purposes*. This statement, actually there is a check box, makes it clear that this license is not for just hunting or target shooting. Make sure that you check the **unrestricted** box just above the reasons section in the application.
- **Character** – Language attesting to your good character and integrity is a good way to start the letter. Highlight:
 - Stability
 - Membership in local organization such as churches, fraternal organizations, youth sports clubs, etcetera
 - Number of years in the town
 - Own a home and/or business in town
 - Community service you person
- **Firearms Experience** – Remember that by issuing the LTC the chief is entrusting you to have a concealed weapon in his/her town. Some chiefs believe that only restricted licenses should be issued to new shooters. Explain the experience you have with handling firearms and how seriously you take firearms safety. Provide details on the training that you have had and intend to take or any competitions you have been in.

The letter and reasons section of the application give you the opportunity to reassure the chief that you will not do something to embarrass them in the future. Further it can give the chief a positive feeling about you.