



Massachusetts Firearms Law

DEFINITIONS

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has fairly complex firearms laws. It is important to understand the definitions contained in the law:

Ammunition: cartridges, cartridge cases, primers (igniter), bullets and tear gas cartridges. [Think Cartridges and all components]

Assault weapon: Semi-automatic w/certain features

Deceptive weapon device: Any pretend weapon

Firearm: handgun or any weapon w/barrel which is less than 16 in. Important to understand – **In Massachusetts, a firearm is only a handgun and not a rifle or shotgun.**

Rifle: Weapon with a rifled bore & barrel >16 inches

Shotgun: Smooth bore & barrel >18 inches & overall length >26 inches

Large capacity feeding device: fixed or detachable magazine, etc. which can hold more than 10 rounds

Large capacity weapon: Semi-automatic firearm, rifle or shotgun w/ fixed or detachable large capacity feeding device – Note, does not include semi bolt action rifles of pump action shotguns and other non-semi-automatic actions.

Self-defense spray: Chemical mace, pepper spray, etc. which propels a liquid, gas or powder, etc. designed to incapacitate

Firearms identification Card (FID): Allows possession of non-large capacity rifles, shotguns and ammunition. Must be >14.

License to Carry (LTC): Allows possession & carrying of handguns, rifles & shotguns including large capacity. Must be >21.

Watch out for inconsistencies in the law:

- According to Massachusetts law a **Firearm** is a **handgun**
- According to Massachusetts law, the holder of a **Firearms Identification (FID) card** can only possess non-large capacity **rifles** and **shotguns**
- So..... According to Massachusetts law, **the holder of a Firearms Identification Card cannot possess a Firearm!**