



# Massachusetts Firearms Law Responsibilities

## GUN OWNERS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has fairly complex firearms laws. Owning a firearm comes with significant responsibilities. The law requires the following:

### Storage of Guns

- Law requires that guns are to be stored **securely** when not in use
- Must be stored or kept in a **locked container**
- Or equipped with a tamper resistant mechanical **locking device** or other safety device to prevent its unauthorized use
- A gun is not stored or kept if it is carried or under the control of the owner or authorized user

A locked container can be a locked box, a securely locked (as in dead bolt) closet, a gun safe, a hard sided locked gun case, etcetera.

### Transportation of Guns

How to transport depends on the type of gun and license held.

**Firearm** Note: a firearm is a handgun not a rifle or shotgun

- License to Carry (LTC) - unrestricted
  - a loaded firearm can be in your possession or under your direct control.
- License to Carry (LTC) – restricted and unrestricted when not being carried
  - Unloaded
  - In a locked case or trunk or secure container is recommended. LEOs may be misinformed as this was required by law for the old LTC-B prior to 2014.

**Large Capacity Rifle or Shotgun** Note: Requires an LTC

- Unloaded
- In a locked case or trunk or secure container. A trigger lock is NOT ok.

**Non-Large Capacity Rifle or Shotgun**

- Unloaded and cased
- Carrying rifle or shotgun on a public way
  - Unloaded and cased. Exceptions for hunting and parades

**Ammunition**

- Keep separate from guns – recommended not required
- When being stored law requires ammunition to be stored in a locked container and in the original boxes

### Where you cannot carry guns

- School grounds without permission of the school administrator
- Virtually all federally controlled property & Post Office (incl. PO parking lot)
- Most areas of airports and some state buildings
- Courtrooms if ordered by the judge
- Casinos
- Any area where the owner or lawful occupant asks you not to