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Idaho's Concealed Weapons Law at A Glance

[I.C. 18-3302](#)

Effective July 1, 2019

A concealed weapon means any deadly weapon carried on a person in a manner not discernible by ordinary observation. A deadly weapon means any dirk, dirk knife, bowie knife, dagger, firearm, or any other device designed or intended to be capable of causing death or serious injury. A deadly weapon is not a knife or cleaver or other instrument used by a person in processing, preparing or eating food, or a knife with a blade of 4 inches or less, or a taser, stun-gun, pepper spray or mace.

There are two types of Concealed Weapons Licenses (CWL) in Idaho. A regular or basic CWL and an Enhanced CWL. Both must be applied for separately and if a person possesses a basic CWL and applies for an Enhanced CWL they must go through the entire application process including providing fingerprints again. The enhanced CWL requires 8 hours of specified training.

- All qualified persons 18 years of age or older can open-carry a deadly weapon in Idaho.
- All qualified non-resident persons 18 years of age or older can carry a concealed weapon in Idaho if they possess a concealed carry license or permit from their home state or another state. Idaho recognizes all states concealed carry licenses/permits.
- All qualified residents of Idaho who are 18 years or older can carry a concealed handgun* without a CWL. Six months is required to establish residency in Idaho.
- Unqualified or prohibited persons are those that are either charged with or convicted of a felony, a fugitive from justice, a drug user, mentally ill or lacking in capacity to care for oneself, received a dishonorable discharge, received a withheld or suspended sentence on a felony, an illegal alien, a person who has renounced his citizenship, is subject to a protection order, or is ineligible under federal law to own or possess a firearm.
- An 18 to 20-year-old Idaho resident is eligible for an Enhance CWL (see I.C. 18-3302(2))
- The 18 to 20-year-old Enhanced CWL card shall be vertical in design distinguishing it from CWL's issued to persons 21 years of age or older.
- Non-immigrant persons visiting the U.S. cannot possess a firearm under federal law with a few exceptions such as hunting (18 U.S.C. 922(y)(2)). Canadians often seek an Idaho CWL, however in addition to the above, the FBI cannot run a Canadian criminal history from fingerprints which is required under Idaho law, hence Canadians and other similar foreign nationals are disqualified from being issued a CWL.
- Non-residents who qualify can obtain a regular Idaho CWL, but to qualify for an Enhanced CWL they must have a concealed weapon's license/permit from their home state or another state.

*Note: the code's language uses the word "handgun" instead of "deadly weapon" in I.C. 18-3302(4)(f). In essence, a qualified Idaho resident 18 years of age or older can only carry a handgun concealed without a CWL in Idaho, but to carry other deadly weapons concealed they must possess a CWL. This conflict appears to be an oversight in the law.