

Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application

Introduction

For responsible gun owners in the Volunteer State, keeping a valid Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit is a matter of legal compliance and personal peace of mind. Whether you hold a concealed carry permit or an enhanced carry permit, the renewal process is a periodic requirement that ensures your right to carry remains active. The **Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application** is a straightforward process, but it demands attention to detail, proper timing, and an understanding of the current regulations. This comprehensive guide walks you through every step of renewing your permit, from eligibility requirements to submission methods, so you can navigate the system with confidence and avoid unnecessary delays.

Tennessee law allows law-abiding citizens to carry handguns for self-defense, but permits do expire. Failing to renew on time can result in lapses that complicate your ability to carry legally. By understanding the renewal procedure, the required paperwork, and the associated fees, you can ensure your permit remains active without interruption. This article covers everything you need to know about completing the Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application, whether you choose to apply online, by mail, or in person.

Understanding the Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application

The first thing to understand is that the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TDOSHS) administers all handgun carry permits in the state. There are two primary types of permits: the **Concealed Handgun Carry Permit** and the **Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit**. Both have the same renewal requirements and processes, though the Enhanced permit allows for open carry as well. Regardless of which permit you hold, the renewal application follows similar rules.

It is important to note that the state does not automatically send renewal reminders. You are responsible for tracking your permit's expiration date. The **Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application** must be submitted before the permit expires to avoid a lapse in coverage. The renewal period begins 180 days before the expiration date, giving you ample time to prepare your documents and complete the process.

Eligibility Requirements for Renewal

To be eligible to renew your handgun carry permit in Tennessee, you must meet several basic criteria. These are slightly less strict than the initial application requirements because you have already been vetted. However, any change in your legal status could disqualify you. The key eligibility factors include:

- **Age:** You must be at least 21 years old for both permit types, or 18 if you are an active-duty military member or honorably discharged veteran (for Concealed permits only).
- **Residency:** You must be a Tennessee resident. Non-residents with a valid Tennessee permit can renew as long as they still meet the requirements.
- **Background:** You must not have been convicted of a disqualifying crime, including felonies, certain misdemeanors involving violence, or domestic violence offenses. You must not be under any restraining order or have any pending charges that would prohibit firearm possession.
- **Mental Health:** You must not have been adjudicated as mentally defective, committed to a mental institution, or otherwise determined to be a danger to yourself or others.
- **Fingerprints:** If your fingerprints were previously submitted and are on file with the state, you may not need to resubmit them for renewal. However, if your records are incomplete, the state may request new prints.

If you have moved within Tennessee, you must update your address with the TDOSHS before applying for renewal. Failure to maintain a current address on file can cause processing delays or denial.

Step-by-Step Renewal Process

The **Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application** can be completed through three main channels: online, by mail, or in person at a Driver Services Center or participating sheriff's office. Each method has its advantages, and the choice depends on your comfort with technology and your schedule.

Online Renewal

Renewing online is the fastest and most convenient option. The TDOSHS offers an online portal through its official website. To use this method:

1. Visit the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security's online services page.
2. Select the permit renewal option and log in using your existing account or create a new one.
3. Verify your identity and confirm your current address and other personal information.
4. Upload any required documents, such as proof of training (if applicable) or a recent passport-style photo. Some renewals may not require a new photo or training if you have already completed the required course within the renewal period.
5. Pay the renewal fee using a credit or debit card. The current fee for a concealed carry permit renewal is \$50, and for an enhanced carry permit renewal it is \$65 (plus any additional service fees).
6. Review your application and submit. You will receive a confirmation number and a temporary digital receipt that can be used as proof of renewal until your new permit arrives in the mail.

The online portal is available 24/7, making it a great option for those with busy schedules. However, you must have a valid email address and be able to upload digital copies of your documents.

Mail Renewal

If you prefer to send a paper application, you can download the **Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application** form from the TDOSHS website. Complete the form, attach a check or money order for the renewal fee, and include a copy of your current permit (front and back) and any other supporting documents. Mail everything to the address specified on the form. Allow extra time for postal delivery and processing, which can take several weeks.

In-Person Renewal

For those who prefer face-to-face service, you can visit a Driver Services Center (in participating counties) or your local county sheriff's office that handles handgun permits. Call ahead to confirm they process renewals and to check for any appointment requirements. Bring your current permit, a valid photo ID, proof of residency if your address has changed, and payment in the exact amount (cash, check, or card depending on location). The staff will help you complete the application and may take a new photo if needed.

Training and Education Requirements for Renewal

One common question is whether you need to retake a firearms training course for renewal. The answer depends on the type of permit you hold and how long it has been since your last training. For standard **Concealed Handgun Carry Permit** renewals, Tennessee does not require a new training course if you have previously completed the initial training. However, if you are renewing an **Enhanced Handgun Carry Permit**, the law requires that you complete a minimum of **one hour of refresher training** every renewal cycle. This refresher can be an approved online course or a live session covering topics such as legal updates, safe storage, and defensive shooting practices.

If you let your permit expire for more than six months, you will generally be required to retake the full initial training course before you can apply for a new permit (not a renewal). The renewal application itself does not usually ask for proof of training unless you are renewing an Enhanced permit. In that case, you must upload or provide a certificate of completion from an approved instructor. Always check the latest requirements on the TDOSHS website as regulations can change.

Renewal Timeline and Expiration

Your Tennessee handgun carry permit is valid for eight years from the date of issuance (Enhanced permits are also valid for eight years). You may submit your renewal application up to 180 days before the expiration date. The state recommends applying at least 45 days before the expiration to avoid any coverage gap. If you apply after the permit expires, you will be considered a late applicant, and the renewal fee increases. Furthermore, you cannot legally carry a handgun once your permit lapses until the new permit is issued. It is crucial to plan ahead.

If your permit expires and you miss the late renewal window (typically 180 days after expiration), you must apply for a new permit from scratch, including completing the full training course, submitting fingerprints, and paying the initial application fee. To avoid this hassle, mark your calendar and set reminders well in advance.

Tips for a Smooth Renewal Application

To ensure your **Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application** is processed without error, follow these practical tips:

- **Double-check your information:** Make sure your name, address, and date of birth match your current ID. Any discrepancy can delay processing.
- **Use the correct fee:** Verify the current renewal fee for your permit type. Fees are subject to change, so check the TDOSHS website before mailing or paying online.
- **Keep copies:** If mailing, send the application with tracking and keep a copy of everything for your records.
- **Update your address first:** If you moved, update your address with the Department of Safety before starting the renewal. You can do this online or at a driver services center.
- **Monitor processing times:** Online renewals typically take 7-14 business days, while mail and in-person may take 3-6 weeks. If you haven't received your new permit after six weeks, contact TDOSHS customer service.
- **Carry a temporary receipt:** When you renew online or in person, you will receive a temporary paper permit or receipt. Keep this with your expired permit until the new one arrives; it serves as proof of renewal during the gap period.

Conclusion

The **Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit Renewal Application** does not have to be a stressful ordeal. By understanding the eligibility criteria, choosing the right submission method, and staying on top of deadlines, you can maintain your lawful right to carry without interruption. Whether you opt for the efficiency of online renewal or the personal touch of an in-person visit, the key is to start early and follow the instructions accurately. Your permit is a privilege that comes with responsibilities, and renewing it on time is a fundamental part of being a responsible firearm owner in Tennessee. Stay informed, stay legal, and continue to exercise your Second Amendment rights with confidence.