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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 (see 18-3302K(4)(c))

- All qualified persons 18 years of age or older can open-carry a deadly weapon in Idaho.
- All qualified residents of Idaho who are 18 years of age or older can carry a concealed handgun* without a CWL. Six months is required to establish residency in Idaho.
- All qualified non-resident persons 21 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.
- 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 21-year-old Idaho resident is eligible for a regular CWL, however they must meet the requirements of qualifying for an Enhanced CWL (see I.C. 18-3302(20))
- The 18 to 21-year old regular CWL is issued as a regular license until the licensee turns 21 at which time the regular CWL will expire. The CWL can then be renewed as an Enhanced CWL with payment of the renewal fee.
- The 18 to 21-year-old regular 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 conduct a Canadian criminal history check using 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 first possess 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.