

**This pamphlet is required by law and, pursuant to the law, contains basic pistol safety information. It is strongly recommended that people obtaining pistols seek out firearms safety courses in their community.**

**The statutory requirements appearing in this pamphlet pertain to Michigan residents only. However, additional restrictions on possessing and transporting pistols in Michigan also apply to non-residents.**

## Pistol Safety Techniques

Firearm ownership carries with it a responsibility of safeguarding the welfare of others and yourself when handling firearms. Accident prevention is the user's responsibility.

### Safety Tips

- It is advisable to talk with family members about a pistol and the dangers of careless or unsafe use.
- A basic rule in pistol safety is to treat every pistol as if it were loaded.
- A pistol should always be unloaded when not in use. Ammunition should be stored separately from the pistol.
- It is generally recommended that the cylinder assembly of a revolver and the barrel assembly of a semi-automatic be removed from the frame for long-term storage. Both ammunition and the firearm should be stored in a safe place out of the reach of children.
- The improper household storage of a pistol could result in the arming of a criminal through a burglary or the injury or death of a child who discovers and plays with a pistol.

- Discharging a pistol at a range without proper ear and eye protection could result in permanent ear and eye damage.
- For the safety of yourself and others, be sure the barrel is clear of any obstructions before shooting. Obstructions, such as snow, dirt, excess grease or lubricating oil in the bore, may cause increased pressures that could damage the pistol and cause injury.
- On a semi-automatic pistol, keep the safety on and/or action open unless firing.
- Never put a finger on the trigger until ready to fire at a proper target. A proper target is defined as knowing what is beyond the target and in the line of fire.
- Keep the barrel of a pistol pointed in a safe direction at all times, even when dry firing, loading, or unloading. If an accidental discharge does occur, injury will be prevented when the barrel is pointed in a safe direction.
- Be aware that dropping a loaded pistol may cause an accidental discharge, even with the safety on.
- Bullets can glance off flat surfaces, such as rocks and water. Glancing bullets travel in unpredictable directions with considerable velocity, capable of causing injury or death.

## Ownership, Possession and Transportation

When purchasing or acquiring a pistol, the buyer must first obtain a License to Purchase (RI-010) from a local police department or have a valid Michigan Concealed Pistol License.

When purchasing or acquiring a pistol with a Michigan Concealed Pistol License, a Pistol Sales Record (RI-060) must be completed by both the purchaser and seller at the time of acquisition.

It is the responsibility of a pistol owner to know what the law is pertaining to ownership, possession, transportation, and use of pistols.

### Transportation Tips

- A Michigan Concealed Pistol License is generally required for transporting a pistol, loaded or unloaded, in a motor vehicle.
- Without a Michigan Concealed Pistol License, you are permitted to transport a pistol for a **lawful purpose** if the owner or occupant of the vehicle is the registered owner of the firearm and the pistol is unloaded and closed in a case in the trunk of the vehicle. If the vehicle does not have a trunk, the pistol may be in the passenger compartment of the vehicle unloaded and inaccessible to the occupants of the vehicle.

A “**lawful purpose**” includes:

1. While en route to or from a hunting or target-shooting area.
2. While transporting a pistol to or from home or place of business and a place of repair.
3. While moving goods from one place of residence or business to another place of residence or business.
4. While transporting a licensed pistol to or from a law enforcement agency for the purpose of having a law enforcement official take possession of the pistol.
5. While en route to or from home or place of business to a gun show or place of purchase or sale.
6. While in route to or from home to a public shooting facility or land where the discharge of firearms is permitted.

7. While en route to or from home to private property where the pistol is to be used as permitted by law, rule, regulation, or local ordinance.

## Criminal and Civil Offenses

A person can be held criminally and civilly liable for wrongfully pointing or discharging a pistol at another person. This could result personal or family trauma, the loss of freedom, loss of employment, related wages and health benefits, and future wages and employment.

### Criminal Offense Tips

- It is illegal to sell a gun to anyone under the age of 18.
- When hunting with a pistol, the pistol must be carried in a holster or belt, in plain view, and on the outside of your clothing, unless you have a Michigan Concealed Pistol License.
- The law requires a person to report the theft of a pistol to police within five days of having knowledge of the theft.
- Possession and use of firearms while under the influence of alcohol and drugs is a criminal offense and constitutes a reckless disregard for safety.

It is a **felony crime** to:

1. Discharge a pistol in a facility or from a motor vehicle, snowmobile, or off-road vehicle in a manner as to endanger the safety of another person.
2. Discharge a firearm at a facility that is a dwelling or an occupied structure.

# STATE OF MICHIGAN BASIC PISTOL SAFETY PAMPHLET



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**AUTHORITY:** 1990 PA 320 **COMPLIANCE:** Voluntary  
**PENALTY:** Non-Issuance