

**CHAPTER 62.1-02**  
**POSSESSION OF WEAPONS**

**62.1-02-01. Persons who are not to possess firearms - Penalty.**

1.
  - a. A person who has been convicted anywhere of a felony offense involving violence or intimidation in violation of chapters 12.1-16 through 12.1-25 or an equivalent felony offense of another state or the federal government is prohibited from owning a firearm or having one in possession or under control from the date of conviction and continuing for a period of ten years after the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, parole, or probation, whichever is latest.
  - b. A person who has been convicted anywhere of a felony offense of this or another state or the federal government not provided for in subdivision a or who has been convicted of a class A misdemeanor offense involving violence or intimidation in violation of chapters 12.1-16 through 12.1-25 or an equivalent offense of another state or the federal government and the offense was committed while using or possessing a firearm, a dangerous weapon, or, as defined in subsections 7 and 8 of section 12.1-01-04, a destructive device or an explosive, is prohibited from owning a firearm or having one in possession or under control from the date of conviction and continuing for a period of five years after the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, parole, or probation, whichever is latest.
  - c. A person who is or has ever been diagnosed and confined or committed to a hospital or other institution in this state or elsewhere by a court of competent jurisdiction, other than a person who has had the petition that provided the basis for the diagnosis, confinement, or commitment dismissed under section 25-03.1-17, 25-03.1-18, or 25-03.1-19, or equivalent statutes of another jurisdiction, as a person requiring treatment as defined in section 25-03.1-02, or as a mentally deficient person as defined in section 25-01-01, is prohibited from purchasing a firearm or having one in possession or under control. This limitation does not apply to a person who has not suffered from the disability for the previous three years or who has successfully petitioned for relief under section 62.1-02-01.2.
  - d. A person under the age of eighteen years may not possess a handgun except that such a person, while under the direct supervision of an adult, may possess a handgun for the purposes of firearm safety training, target shooting, or hunting.  
A person who violates subdivision a or b is guilty of a class C felony, and a person who violates subdivision c or d is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
2. For the purposes of this section, "conviction" means a determination that the person committed one of the above-mentioned crimes upon a verdict of guilt, a plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere even though:
  - a. The court suspended execution of sentence in accordance with subsection 3 of section 12.1-32-02;
  - b. The court deferred imposition of sentence in accordance with subsection 4 of section 12.1-32-02;
  - c. The court placed the person on probation;
  - d. The person's conviction has been reduced in accordance with subsection 9 of section 12.1-32-02 or section 12.1-32-07.1;
  - e. Sentence dispositions, sentence reductions, or offense determinations equivalent to this section were imposed or granted by a court, board, agency, or law of another state or the federal government; or
  - f. The person committed an offense equivalent to an offense described in subdivision a or b of subsection 1 when that person was subject to juvenile adjudication or proceedings and a determination of a court under chapter 27-20 or of a court of another state or the federal government was made that the person committed the delinquent act or offense.

**62.1-02-01.1. Restoration of right to possess firearm.**

1. An individual who is prohibited from possessing a firearm due to a conviction of a felony under subdivision b of subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-01 may petition the district court in the district where the individual resides for restoration of the individual's firearm rights.
2. The district court may restore the right of an individual to possess a firearm if the court determines, by clear and convincing evidence, that all of the following circumstances exist:
  - a. The individual has paid all fines imposed for the violation resulting in the prohibition;
  - b. The individual has served all terms of imprisonment imposed for the violation resulting in the prohibition;
  - c. The individual has successfully completed all conditions of probation or parole imposed for the violation resulting in the prohibition; and
  - d. The individual's record and reputation are such that the individual is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to the safety of others.

**62.1-02-01.2. Mental disability and the possession of firearms.**

1. A court shall make a finding as to whether the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 922(d)(4) and (g)(4) apply to the subject of a following proceeding in which the court:
  - a. Finds that a person, as a result of mental disease or defect, may not be held criminally responsible in any case pursuant to chapter 12.1-04 or 12.1-04.1;
  - b. Finds that a person is a "mentally deficient person", as defined in subsection 3 of section 25-01-01;
  - c. Orders involuntary hospitalization or commitment to a treatment facility or involuntary treatment pursuant to chapter 25-03.1;
  - d. Orders involuntary commitment or involuntary treatment under chapter 25-03.3;
  - e. Appoints a guardian ad litem under section 28-03-04;
  - f. Appoints a guardian under chapter 30.1-28; or
  - g. Appoints a conservator under chapter 30.1-29.
2. If the court finds that the provisions apply, the clerk of the court shall forward the individual's name and nonclinical identifying information to the bureau of criminal investigation, which shall forward the information to the federal bureau of investigation, or its successor agency, for inclusion in the national instant criminal background check system database. The court also shall notify the individual of the prohibitions of 18 U.S.C. 922(d)(4) and (g)(4), and, if relevant, of subdivision c of subsection 1 of section 62.1-02-01.
3. If a court of this state has found an individual under subsection 1 to be subject to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 922(d)(4) and (g)(4), that individual may petition the court that issued the finding or the district court of the county where the individual resides to remove that individual's firearms-related disabilities, as provided in Public Law No. 110-180, 105(a). A copy of the petition for relief must be served on the director of the treatment facility that treated the individual pursuant to court order and the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the original finding, order, or appointment occurred. The director of the treatment facility that treated the individual pursuant to court order and the prosecuting attorney may appear, support, object to, and present evidence relevant to the relief sought by the petitioner. The court shall receive and consider evidence in a closed proceeding, including evidence offered by the petitioner, concerning:
  - a. The circumstances of the original order, appointment, or finding;
  - b. The petitioner's mental health and criminal history records, if any;
  - c. The petitioner's reputation; and
  - d. Changes in the petitioner's condition or circumstances relevant to the relief sought.
4. The court shall grant the petition for relief if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner likely will not act in a manner dangerous to public safety

and that the granting of the relief would not be contrary to the public interest. A record must be kept of the proceedings. The record is confidential and may be disclosed only to a court in the event of an appeal. An individual may file a petition for relief under this section no more than once every two years.

5. When a magistrate or court issues an order granting a petition for relief under subsection 3, the clerk of the court immediately shall forward a copy of the order to the bureau of criminal investigation in the format and medium specified by the bureau after consultation with the state court administrator. The bureau immediately shall forward a copy to the federal bureau of investigation, or its successor agency, for updating of the national instant criminal background check system database.

**62.1-02-02. Sale of handgun regulated - Penalty.**

No person may transfer a handgun to any person who the transferor knows or has reasonable cause to believe is a person prohibited by section 62.1-02-01 from possessing a firearm. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

**62.1-02-03. Possession or sale of short-barreled rifle or shotgun - Penalty - Application.**

A person who possesses, obtains, receives, sells, or uses a short-barreled rifle or a short-barreled shotgun is guilty of a class C felony. This section does not apply to a law enforcement officer who possesses, obtains, receives, sells, or uses a short-barreled rifle or a short-barreled shotgun in the course of or in connection with the officer's official duties, to a member of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations who possesses or uses a short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun issued to the member by that organization and while on official duty, or to any person who complies with the National Firearms Act [26 U.S.C. 5801-5872].

**62.1-02-04. Possession of firearm or dangerous weapon in liquor establishment or gaming site prohibited - Penalty - Exceptions.**

Any person who enters or remains in that part of the establishment that is set aside for the retail sale in an establishment engaged in the retail sale of alcoholic beverages or used as a gaming site while in the possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This section does not apply to:

1. A law enforcement officer.
2. The proprietor.
3. The proprietor's employee.
4. A designee of the proprietor when the designee is displaying an unloaded firearm or dangerous weapon as a prize or sale item in a raffle or auction.
5. Private security personnel while on duty for the purpose of delivering or receiving moneys used at the liquor establishment or gaming site.

**62.1-02-05. Possession of a firearm at a public gathering - Penalty - Application.**

1. A person who possesses a firearm at a public gathering is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. For the purpose of this section, "public gathering" includes athletic or sporting events, schools or school functions, churches or church functions, political rallies or functions, musical concerts, and individuals in publicly owned parks where hunting is not allowed by proclamation and publicly owned or operated buildings. The term "public gathering" does not apply to a state or federal park.
2. This section does not apply to law enforcement officers; members of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations, when on duty; competitors participating in organized sport shooting events; gun and antique shows; participants using blank cartridge firearms at sporting or theatrical events; any firearms carried in a temporary residence or motor vehicle; students and instructors at hunter safety classes; or private security personnel while on duty. In addition, a municipal court judge licensed to practice law in this state,

a district court judge, a staff member of the office of attorney general, and a retired North Dakota law enforcement officer are exempt from the prohibition and penalty in subsection 1 if the individual maintains the same level of firearms proficiency as is required by the peace officer standards and training board for law enforcement officers. A local law enforcement agency shall issue a certificate of compliance under this section to an individual who is proficient.

3. This section does not prevent any political subdivision from enacting an ordinance which is less restrictive than this section relating to the possession of firearms at a public gathering. Such an ordinance supersedes this section within the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.

**62.1-02-06. Discharge of firearm within city - Penalty - Application.**

A person who discharges a firearm within a city is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. This section does not apply to the lawful discharge of firearms by law enforcement officers, by citizens in defense of person or property, or by participants in lawful activities in which discharge of firearms is a recognized part of the activity, including shooting galleries and ranges.

**62.1-02-07. Use of firearm by certain minors prohibited - Penalty.**

Any parent, guardian, or other person having charge or custody of any minor under fifteen years of age who permits that minor to carry or use in public any firearm of any description loaded with powder and projectile, except when the minor is under the direct supervision of the parent, guardian, or other person authorized by the parent or guardian, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

**62.1-02-08. Illegal firearms, ammunition, or explosive materials business.**

1. A person is guilty of an offense if the person supplies a firearm, ammunition, or explosive material to, or procures or receives a firearm, ammunition, or explosive material for, a person prohibited by this title from receiving it if the transferor knows or has reasonable cause to believe that such person is prohibited by section 62.1-02-01 from receiving or possessing it.
2. The offense is a class C felony if the actor:
  - a. Was not licensed or otherwise authorized by law to handle, transfer, or engage in transactions with respect to the firearm, destructive device, or explosive material; or
  - b. Engaged in the forbidden transaction under circumstances manifesting the actor's readiness to supply or procure on other occasions in disregard of lawful restrictions.

Otherwise the offense is a class A misdemeanor.

**62.1-02-09. Possession of explosive and destructive device in government building - Penalty.**

A person, except for a law enforcement officer while on official business, is guilty of a class C felony if the person possesses an explosive or destructive device in a government building without the written consent of the government agency or person responsible for the management of the building.

**62.1-02-10. Carrying loaded firearm in vehicle - Penalty - Exceptions.**

No person may keep or carry a loaded firearm in or on any motor vehicle in this state. Any person violating this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. This prohibition does not apply to:

1. A member of the armed forces of the United States or national guard, organized reserves, state defense forces, or state guard organizations while possessing the firearm issued to the member by the organization and while on official duty.
2. A law enforcement officer, except while the officer is engaged in hunting or trapping activities with a rifle or shotgun.

3. Any person possessing a valid North Dakota concealed weapons license or a valid license issued by another state authorizing the person to carry a dangerous weapon concealed if that state permits a holder of a valid North Dakota concealed weapons license to carry a dangerous weapon concealed in that state without obtaining a similar license from that state, except while that person is in the field engaged in hunting or trapping activities.
4. Any person in the field engaged in lawful hunting or trapping of nongame species or fur-bearing animals.
5. A security guard or private investigator licensed to carry firearms by the attorney general.
6. Any person possessing a valid special permit issued pursuant to section 20.1-02-05.

**62.1-02-11. Possessing explosive prohibited - Exception - Penalty.**

No person may have in custody, possession, or control any nitroglycerin, dynamite, or any other dangerous or violent explosive, unless the explosive is carried in the prosecution of or to effect a lawful and legitimate purpose. Any person violating this section is guilty of a class C felony.

**62.1-02-12. Resident may purchase rifle or shotgun in contiguous state - Application - Definitions.**

Repealed by S.L. 2005, ch. 598, § 2.

**62.1-02-13. Possession of secured firearm - Prohibition by employer prohibited.**

1. A public or private employer may not:
  - a. Prohibit any customer, employee, or invitee from possessing any legally owned firearm, if the firearm is lawfully possessed and locked inside or locked to a private motor vehicle in a parking lot and if the customer, employee, or invitee is lawfully in the area.
  - b. Make a verbal or written inquiry regarding the presence of a firearm inside or locked to a private motor vehicle in a parking lot or make an actual search of a private motor vehicle in a parking lot to ascertain the presence of a firearm within the vehicle. In addition, a public or private employer may not take any action against a customer, employee, or invitee based upon verbal or written statements of any party concerning possession of a firearm stored inside a private motor vehicle in a parking lot for lawful purposes. A search of a private motor vehicle in the parking lot of a public or private employer to ascertain the presence of a firearm within the vehicle may only be conducted by an on-duty law enforcement officer.
  - c. Condition employment upon the fact that an employee or prospective employee holds or does not hold a concealed weapons license or any agreement by an employee or a prospective employee that prohibits an employee from keeping a legal firearm locked inside or locked to a private motor vehicle in a parking lot, if the firearm is kept for lawful purposes.
  - d. Prohibit or attempt to prevent any customer, employee, or invitee from entering the parking lot or the employer's place of business because the customer's, employee's, or invitee's private motor vehicle contains a legal firearm being carried for lawful purposes, that is out of sight within the customer's, employee's, or invitee's private motor vehicle.
  - e. Terminate the employment of or otherwise discriminate against an employee, or expel a customer or invitee for exercising the constitutional right to keep and bear arms or for exercising the right of self-defense as long as a firearm is never exhibited on company property for any reason other than lawful defensive purposes.
2. A public or private employer has no duty of care related to the actions prohibited under this section.

3. A public or private employer is not liable in a criminal or civil action based on actions or inactions taken in compliance with this section. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to civil actions based on actions or inactions of public or private employers that are unrelated to compliance with this section.
4. This section does not expand any existing duty, or create any additional duty, on the part of a public or private employer, property owner, or property owner's agent.
5. A person aggrieved under this section may bring a civil action for violation of rights protected under this section. In any successful action brought by a customer, employee, or invitee aggrieved under this section, the court shall award all reasonable personal costs and losses suffered by the aggrieved person as a result of the violation of rights under this section. In any action brought under this section, the court shall award all court costs and attorney's fees to the prevailing party.
6. The prohibitions in subsection 1 do not apply to:
  - a. Any public or nonpublic elementary school, middle school, high school, college, or university property.
  - b. Any correctional facility or institution.
  - c. Property owned or leased by a public or private employer or the landlord of a public or private employer upon which are conducted substantial activities involving national defense, aerospace, or homeland security.
  - d. Property owned or leased by a public or private employer or the landlord of a public or private employer upon which the primary business conducted is the manufacture, use, storage, or transportation of combustible or explosive materials regulated under state or federal law, or property owned or leased by an employer who has obtained a permit required under 18 U.S.C. 842 to engage in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in explosive materials on the property.
  - e. A motor vehicle owned, leased, or rented by a public or private employer or the landlord of a public or private employer.
  - f. Any other property owned or leased by a public or private employer or the landlord of a public or private employer upon which possession of a firearm or other legal product by a customer, employee, or invitee is prohibited under any federal law, contract with a federal governmental entity, or other law of this state.
  - g. The state hospital.