GENERAL

# tennessee handgun carry permit renewal application

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## Introduction

Carrying a handgun in Tennessee is a responsibility that comes with a set of rules designed to keep both the carrier and the public safe. Whether you are a seasoned gun owner or a first time concealed carry holder, the **tennessee handgun carry permit renewal application** is a crucial step in maintaining your legal right to carry. This guide will walk you through every aspect of the renewal process, from eligibility and required documents to the application itself, fees, and processing times. By the end, you'll know exactly what to expect and how to avoid common pitfalls that can delay or even jeopardize your renewal.

## Why Renewal Matters: The Legal Landscape of Tennessee Handgun Carry

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TDSHS) issues concealed handgun permits that are valid for a specific period—typically five years for most applicants. Once that period expires, you must submit a renewal application to continue carrying legally. Failing to renew can result in civil penalties, loss of rights, and potential criminal charges if you are found carrying without a valid permit. Understanding the legal stakes helps reinforce the importance of staying on top of the renewal schedule.

### Key Points to Remember

- The expiration date is printed on your current permit; keep it in a safe place.
- Renewals can be submitted up to 90 days before expiration to avoid gaps.
- Renewals are not automatic—an application and fee are required each cycle.

## Eligibility: Who Can Renew?

Not every Tennessee handgun owner qualifies for a carry permit, and the same applies to renewals. To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Be at least 21 years old (or 18 if you are a qualified military member).
2. Have a clean criminal record—no felony convictions or certain misdemeanors.
3. Not be a prohibited person under federal law (e.g., drug addicts, unlawful users of controlled substances).
4. Have successfully completed the required training course and obtained a certificate of completion.
5. Maintain a valid Tennessee driver"s license or state ID.

If you meet these conditions, you can proceed with the **tennessee handgun carry permit renewal application** process. If you're unsure about any eligibility issue, consult a qualified attorney or contact the TDSHS directly for clarification.

## The Renewal Application Process: Step by Step

Renewing your handgun carry permit is a straightforward process, but it requires attention to detail. Below is a comprehensive breakdown of each step, ensuring you submit a complete and accurate application.

### 1. Gather the Required Documents

Before you even touch the application form, assemble the following items:

- Current Permit – the one you are renewing.
- Proof of identity (driver's license or state ID).
- Proof of Tennessee residency (utility bill, lease agreement, or bank statement).
- Certificate of completion from the approved handgun training course.
- Recent passport  style photograph (if required by your local county clerk).
- Payment for the renewal fee (check the latest fee schedule on the TDSHS website).

### 2. Complete the Renewal Application Form

The TDSHS offers two ways to submit the renewal form:

1. Online Application – log in to the TDSHS portal, fill out the electronic form, upload scanned documents, and pay electronically.
2. Paper Application – download the PDF from the TDSHS website, print, fill in, and mail or hand  deliver to your local county clerk's office.

Regardless of the method, ensure that all fields are accurately filled. Incomplete or incorrect information can delay processing or result in denial.

### 3. Pay the Renewal Fee

Fees vary by county but generally range from $30 to $60. Check the **tennessee handgun carry permit renewal application** fee schedule on the official TDSHS website before you pay. Acceptable payment methods include:

- Credit or debit card (online).
- Check or money order (paper application).
- Cash (in person at the clerk's office).

### 4. Submit the Application

If you chose the online route, submit the completed form directly through the portal. For paper applications, mail the package to your county clerk's office or drop it off in person. Retain a copy of the application and any receipts for your records.

### 5. Await Processing

Processing times differ by county but typically take 4 to 6 weeks. You can track your application status through the TDSHS portal or by contacting your local clerk's office. If any additional information is required, the clerk will notify you promptly.

### 6. Receive Your New Permit

Once approved, you will receive your renewed permit either by mail or in person. The new permit will have a fresh expiration date and updated barcode. Store it in a secure location and keep the expiration date visible to avoid missing the next renewal window.

## Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even experienced carriers can slip up during the renewal process. Below are the most frequent errors and practical tips to prevent them.

### 1. Missing or Expired Training Certificate

The TDSHS requires proof of a completed handgun training course. If your certificate is older than the required validity period (usually 3 years), you must retake the course. Retaining a digital copy can save time.

### 2. Incorrect or Outdated Personal Information

Ensure your name, address, and contact details match your current driver's license. Even a minor discrepancy can cause delays.

### 3. Overlooking the Renewal Fee

Failure to include the correct fee often results in a denied application. Double check the fee amount and payment method before submitting.

### 4. Submitting the Application After Expiration

If you wait until after your permit has expired, you may face penalties and need to re apply from scratch. Aim to submit the renewal at least 30 days before the expiration date.

### 5. Neglecting to Keep a Copy of the Application

Always keep a printed or digital copy of the submitted application and any correspondence. It will be invaluable if you need to reference the application status or correct errors.

## Tips for a Smooth Renewal Experience

A few simple habits can make the renewal process less stressful:

- Set a Calendar Reminder – mark the expiration date on your phone or calendar with a 90 day warning.
- Use the Online Portal – it's faster, and you can upload documents instantly.
- Check for Updates – TDSHS occasionally updates forms and fee schedules; review the website before starting.
- Keep Training Records Updated – store certificates in a cloud folder for quick access.
- Verify Your Address – if you moved, update your address with the TDSHS before applying.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What happens if I miss the renewal deadline?

If you fail to renew before the expiration date, you lose your legal right to carry. Carrying a handgun without a valid permit can lead to civil penalties and criminal charges. You must re apply from scratch, which may involve new background checks and training.

### Can I renew my permit if I have a suspended or revoked license?

A suspended or revoked driver's license typically disqualifies you from renewing a handgun carry permit. You must first resolve the license issue before re applying.

### Is the renewal process the same for all Tennessee counties?

While the overall steps are consistent, some counties may have slightly different submission methods or additional local requirements. Always verify with your local clerk's office.

### Do I need to retake the training course for renewal?

Most counties require a training certificate that is no older than three years. If your certificate is newer, you can use it. If it's older, you must retake the course.

### Can I renew my permit from outside Tennessee?

Yes, you can submit the renewal application online from outside the state. However, you must still meet all residency and background check requirements.

## Conclusion

Renewing your Tennessee handgun carry permit is a vital step that ensures you remain in compliance with state law while exercising your right to carry safely. By understanding the eligibility criteria, gathering the necessary documents, completing the application accurately, and paying the correct fee, you can navigate the **tennessee handgun carry permit renewal application**process smoothly. Remember to stay ahead of deadlines, keep copies of all paperwork, and verify local requirements to avoid common mistakes. With a renewed permit in hand, you can continue to carry responsibly and confidently, knowing you've met all legal obligations.


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