

PACKING HEAT



**WHAT EVERY LEGALLY ARMED
CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW**

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At the time of producing this publication, there were approximately 6,500,000 Legally Armed Citizens in the USA. Every month this figure increases. Some of these individuals have had training to tell them certain aspects about carrying weapons, and others have never received any form of instruction. This publication is intended to refresh the minds of those who have received training, and share knowledge to those who have never received training.

This publication is not a ‘manual of arms’ on carrying weapons. The intent is to go over certain aspects about carrying that Legally Armed Citizens should know. I have trained thousands of individuals regarding carrying weapons. The majority of information in this publication comes from courses I have instructed. I hope it helps some people who have received authorization to be legally armed, and those who are considering becoming legally armed.

We live in dangerous times. Crime and terrorism can touch any one. The Right to own arms has been settled by the Supreme Court of the land, as written in the 2nd Amendment. However, in their decision, they left the legality to each state regarding the wearing and carrying of arms. Being Legally Armed is an individuals decision and, is based on the laws of their resident state.

I hope the information contained here will help some people learn aspects about carrying weapons that they did not know, and to refresh others on areas they may have forgotten.

Gene Kennedy

P.S.—Most of the links provided in this publication disappeared when we converted to a PDF File. We have added on the last page, the words, phrases, or other areas, that have links that don’t work. Please copy and paste the links into your browser. Sorry, could not fix the problem.

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Mandated Training

Some states require a person to take a training course before a Carry License or Permit is issued. States like [Arizona](#), Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, and others, develop their own 'certified' course. Other states like Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, and others, do not require mandatory training. Some only require a copy of a U.S. Military Veteran's Honorable Discharge or DD214, prior to issuance of a Carry License or Permit.

The bulk of all the mandatory training focuses on safety issues and state laws. Most people who are associated with state mandated training believe these courses were developed to minimize law suits against a state because of no training requirements about gun handling issues, or lack of knowledge about their state laws as to deadly force and carrying restrictions. By mandating training, these states reduce the possibility of this type of law suit. To date, these law suits have not been an issue in states that do not require training or states that do require training, because of the positive actions of Legally Armed Citizens. This would not be the case if high numbers of bad shootings occurred where large numbers of innocent people were shot, or criminal behavior was high with Legally Armed Citizens. However, this has not been what has happened. History shows that when Legally Armed Citizens had to draw and fire their gun in a self-defense situation, they did it within the bounds of the law and; they were accurate with their shots.

SAFETY

One area that every person who carries a firearm needs to remember are the safety issues. Shoot yourself in the foot when cleaning your gun, and not too many people will care. Shoot an innocent child when cleaning your gun, and we all feel the result of this type of action. Remember [firearm safety](#) all the time.

The majority of all firearm accidents are caused by [‘Ignorance’](#) and [‘Carelessness’](#). A person who is not familiar with firearms and has a firearm accident, caused the accident by their ‘ignorance’ of firearm safety rules. However, a person who is familiar with firearm safety rules and has an accident, caused the accident because of their ‘carelessness’.

There is a small town next to where I live in Tennessee called Smyrna. A young police officer came home one day after his shift. He took off his duty rig, and left it on the kitchen table. His gun was on his duty belt, and it was still loaded. His small child, under six years old, got his gun and was able to pull the trigger. This young man, father, and husband, was shot in the back and killed. This was a tragedy caused by a ‘careless’ act.

The most important rule of firearm safety is to **point the gun in a safe direction**. How many times have hunters been shot by mistake because their buddy did not observe this firearm rule. Does Vice President Chaney ring a bell?

Another rule that needs to be addressed is to keep all firearms locked up or stored to prevent [unauthorized](#) access. This prevents a child from finding the gun and robbers from stealing your firearms. When a firearm is not in use, make sure it is un-loaded and stored away from unauthorized parties.



Gun Safe

In the many years I trained individuals for Carry Licenses or Permits in addition to tactical firearm training, I would make it a point to tell the attendees to make sure they store their guns away un-loaded. In Jackson, Tennessee one of the people in a handgun permit course I was instructing, was an older gentleman who was a retired Marine. He came up to me after the class and said his wife was dead, and his children did not live with him. Since he lived by himself, he kept loaded guns thought his home. I told him this was his choice but, if robbers came into the home when he was not there, he just gave them loaded guns that could be used against him, or someone else. When he was at home, this was not a problem because the guns would be ‘in-use’ because they were there for his own [self-defense](#). He said he felt OK with leaving the guns out when he was not at home. This was his decision and I hoped he never faced a problem because of it.

About two years later, I heard that this same man came home one day and surprised a robber in his home. The robber already had one of the old Marine’s guns. He used it to shoot him in the leg. The robber did not break into the home armed. He became armed when he found one of the handguns.

Being a former Marine, the home owner got up to follow the robber outside after he had been shot in the leg. I'm sure he thought he could stop him with his sidearm. Unfortunately, this is when he was shot in the head. He was killed by his own gun held by the robber.

Keep your guns un-loaded when not in use, and stored in locations that un-authorized people cannot get to them.

Finger on the trigger This is the one safety rule that bothers me the most. How many times have you attended a gun show, and the majority of people selling their individual guns, keep playing with the trigger. It seems like they always keep their finger on the trigger. These are the same people who think they know everything about firearms. When they do this all the time, someday they will have their finger inside the trigger guard when they don't want it to be there. I would like to be there when they shoot themselves in the foot or a more intimate spot.



Senator Feinstein with her finger on the trigger.

Trigger guards are there for a reason. They came about after so many cowboys and soldiers shot themselves by mistake. If you are authorized to carry a firearm, you must practice to keep your finger off the trigger until you want to shoot the gun.

The majority of people who think they know all there is to know about carrying firearms, will say this is only for beginners. Well, when they began to carry a handgun, if they did not condition themselves to keep their finger off the trigger

until they were ready to shoot the gun, I can assure you, a few of these experts will shoot themselves, or an innocent person by mistake sometime down the road. If they shoot themselves, no one cares. But if they shoot an innocent person, it reflects bad on all of us.

Here is an exercise you can practice to keep your finger off the trigger. Get you carry gun [*un-loaded*], and your carry holster. Practice in front of a mirror. As you draw the handgun, look at the presentation of the pistol in the mirror. As the handgun is leveled, raise the position of the front sight to your chest area [center mass], and make sure your finger has not accessed the trigger. During the draw, the finger stays on the side of the frame. Practice saying “**Stop I’m armed, don’t make me shoot**”. Do this over and over, week after week, until it is second nature to you. You also want to be able to draw and be able to fire the pistol within 1 to 1 1/2 seconds. Why are you doing this?

You are training your body and mind to act quickly in a safe manner incase you have to draw your handgun in a self-defense incident. Make sure your draw is smooth and flawless. If you can’t do this in practice, you will not be able to do it when some thug is trying to make you his ‘play’ toy. Under stress, a smooth correct draw will always work better than a quick draw that is flawed. Hopefully, your thug opponent will not have practiced with his gun and, you will have the upper hand.

Saying “**Stop I’m armed, don’t make me shoot**”, is also

training your mind and body to react with words in addition to physical actions [the draw]. Most people who are in the area of a shooting incident only remember certain physical things that occurred during the incident. However, the majority will remember words that were shouted by one or both of the players. Having yelled “**Stop I’m armed, don’t make me shoot**”, is better than yelling “**I’m going to shoot your ass you _____**” or, “**You’re a dead piece of _____**”. These are words that might be uttered without practice in a time of stress. Let the witnesses remember “**Stop I’m armed, don’t make me shoot**”, and you will always come out in a better position.

Proper hearing & eye protection - After you obtain your Carry License or Permit, you will occasionally practice with your pistol. Always use proper hearing and eye protection. There a lot of people who shoot on their own land. Some of them never use hearing or eye protection. Over time, this will damage their hearing. If they get a sliver of metal in their eye from the gun blast, their sight may never be the same.

Wash hands after practice or shooting a firearm - Lead is a [Carcinogenic Agent](#). After you shoot your firearm, make sure you wash your hands with ‘soapy’ water.

Before cleaning a firearm, be sure it is unloaded, no ammunition is present, and the ‘action’ is open. Some people might not understand these ‘safety’ rules. If you don’t make sure your firearm is un-loaded before you clean it, you might find out the hard way. I know a older gentlemen who every time I see him, seems to have lost another small piece of

his body. Most of his problems came when cleaning his guns. His family has now built a separate shack outside their home where he can clean his guns AWAY FROM THEM.

Another reason why you want to make sure your guns are un-loaded before cleaning them. You have not yet inspected your pistol to see if it is un-loaded but, you have laid it down on the cleaning table. The telephone rings and you go to answer it. The neighbors child comes over for some sugar her Mother needs for cooking. She sees the gun laying on the table. Guess what, not many children can resist the temptation of touching a gun. This is a loaded gun. Far fetched...NO.

Keep the action open - You have begun cleaning your pistol. You have checked to make sure the pistol is un-loaded. Your wife calls you to see if you like the soup she is making. You leave your un-loaded gun on the table with the 'action' open. After you come back, you notice that the action is closed. You inspect the pistol and find a round in the chamber. You scream out "Johnny" for your youngest child. If you did not have the action open, you would never have known the pistol was loaded. If this happened when little Johnny was still living at home in his mid 40's, you better check your life insurance to see if your wife is still the beneficiary or, if little Johnny changed it to himself. Putting ammo away stops this.

Not only would you face mental problems if a young child hurt themselves with one of your loaded guns, you can be assured you will face liability issues arising out of these acts.

Liability

You are liable for every bullet that leaves the barrel of your firearm. No one twisted your arm to carry a firearm. It was your decision to defend yourself and your family. Knowing this, you can be assured that in this law-suit driven society, if you ever shoot an innocent person or property was damaged by a misplaced shot, you will face liability issues. You might not be faced with criminal charges but, a civil law suit could drain all of your assets.

Because of the liability issue, you should do all you can do to minimize the possibility of facing any civil law suit. Practicing with your handgun is one way to increase the odds that you will be a better shot. Being able to shoot more accurately will help you stay alive, and out of the paupers box because of a misplaced shot.

Every self-defense shooting has some degree of ‘stress’. You don't walk around with a pistol in your hand, ready for a shooting. You carry your handgun in a holster that is normally concealed from view. If you have **not** practiced drawing your handgun from the carry rig, **not** practiced trigger control including using the front sights, plus the elements of shooting, you have the odds *against you* that you will stay alive. Also it will be less likely that all of your shots hit their intended mark.

As I mentioned before, if you practice yelling phrases that are not racist or threatening, you will also be in a better position

as to liability issues. However, these will not help you with a misplaced shot.

A good example of this is in the shooting of an Arizona Police Officer Mark Atkinson. In 1999, this officer was involved in a incident with some illegal immigrants. He was shot and killed by these people during a car chase. A Legally Armed Citizen, Rory Vertigan, was in the vicinity and saw the shooting. Instead of running away or doing nothing, he engaged the thugs while trying to assist the fallen officer. A gun battle took place and during the course of the fight, [Rory Vertigan](#) never lost concentration of an innocent U.P.S. truck driver in the vicinity. At various times during this incident, he stopped shooting to make sure that no innocent person was hurt.



Without being aware of who is in the vicinity of any shooting incident, your are always as risk of hurting an innocent person. Most times, this leads to civil liability issues. When you hear the phrase, *you are liable for your shot no matter where it lands*, keep these words in your mind. This includes people and property.

The better your are at shooting, the lower the risk of shooting an innocent person. However, this can always happen. Legally carrying a firearm is risky business but, it is still better than being turned into lunch by a group of thugs who want to make you or your stuff theirs.

Practice has been mentioned a few times. Why do military, police, and professions fighters practice so much? It is to do help them survive and win. Lets look what practice accomplishes.



Remember when you started to drive a vehicle. In those beginning years up until now, there were some problems. Over the years, your body and mind has worked out most of the problems without you even thinking about it. Example, as a new driver, if someone cut your off, you may not have reacted as quick as you do now. Over the years your mind has trained your body on what to do. Now when a person cuts you off, you hit the brakes or turn to wheel without even thinking about your actions. Your mind and body know what to do. This is what practice does.

Proper and correct training will help your to learn what to practice. Practicing what you learned from proper training, will increase the odds of your survival. Not every firearm instructor is qualified to teach certain aspects of firearm training. Some instructors are qualified to instruct in firearm safety and shooting techniques. However, some are teaching over their heads when it comes to tactical areas. Learn bad shooting or tactical techniques, and it will take longer to correct the bad habits you have learned. Check out the person who will train you. Look into their background and check with former students. If they have learned well, they will tell you. If the trainer is a jerk, you will find out fast.

Wheel Gun or Semi-Automatic

Most people think that a semi-automatic handgun is what they should use. They see them in movies, war articles in the news, and with the majority of Law Enforcement Officers. Semi-automatic handguns are fine, if you have the time to practice with them and know how to handle them under stress. What do you do if you have a ‘misfire’, ‘squib load’, or a ‘stove-pipe’. If you don’t even know what these words mean, and you have no plans to take any training, do yourself a favor and carry a wheel gun.



A wheel gun is simple to use. Pull the trigger and if the pistol does not fire, just pull the trigger again. It is not complicated. Unlike the police or military, most self-defense shooting incidents happen fast. Long drawn out battles are not common. Semi-automatic pistols carry more ammunition but, if you cannot shoot the pistol or you cannot clear a malfunction, what good is more ammunition going to do?

Most people who are authorized to carry pistols, should be carrying revolvers but, they carry semi-automatics. When the crap hits the fan, they will find out too quickly they are carrying a weapon that is not good for them. Although shooting techniques are similar for revolvers and semi-automatics, it is the problems that can occur with semi-automatics that can hurt a person if they are not prepared

to know how to handle the problems.

Semi-automatic Pistols - There are so many semi-automatic pistols produced, that any desire can be met in the market. Want a pink semi-automatic pistol, they are available. Want a small semi-automatic to keep in your pocket, there is one out there. The bulk of Legally Armed Citizens carry some type of semi-automatic pistol. Should they?



If the operators have the time to practice with this type of handgun, then there should be no problems. Semi-automatic pistols require better shooting techniques than revolvers. Have a 'limp' wrist, and the pistol will not shoot properly. Have a 'squib' load with a semi-automatic during a self-defense shooting incident, and you better know exactly what to do in a short period of time.

If you have the time to learn from a good shooting instructor, then have the time to practice what you have learned, a semi-automatic pistol could wind up being your best friend [I sleep with mine]. Only if you can do these things, should you consider carrying a semi-automatic pistol. Utilize the KISS formula and, you will have a better chance of surviving a dangerous incident. KISS = Keep It Simple Stupid.

Carry Rigs

In the 1980's there were only a few types of holsters that a person could carry a pistol. With Carry Laws enacted in the 1990's, there was an explosion in this industry. Inside the pocket, small of the back, outside holsters, fanny packs, you name it, there is a holster to meet the demand. However, what is a better holster for a tactical situation of the average Legally Armed Citizen?

One key element is that if you cannot access your pistol and be able to draw and fire within 1 to 1 1/2 seconds, you are carrying incorrectly. Why is this short amount of time important? It takes an armed opponent only 1 to 1 1/2 seconds to cover a distance of 21 feet to hit you with a club, or slice you with a knife. This is sometimes called the 21 foot rule. A Tennessee Firearms Instructor I have worked with, Butch Hill, use to wear a Red Suite [see photo] during certain classes we instructed. He would carry a rubber knife. The students would be given special ammunition we prepared that had colored wax in it. They used handguns we provided. The object was to draw their handgun, move any way they wanted, and to shoot Hill before he stabbed them with the rubber knife. Very few students were able to come out of the training session shooting Mr. Hill. Most would have been severely hurt with a real knife. The few who were able to fire their pistol, shot all over the place and very few had any shots within a kill zone. This all occurred in an average time of less than 1 1/2 seconds.



Red Suit

So, you need to be able to access your sidearm, draw, and fire it in less than 1 to 1 1/2 seconds. If you can't do this, you need to consider a different carry rig.

Strong side carry on a belt or inside the waistband, is one type of carry that has tactical advantage. Why? Because when you draw the pistol, there is a direct line between the opponent and you. Unlike other types of carry rigs, shoulder, small of the back, reverse carry, there is no arc of swing when the pistol is drawn. If you carry in a shoulder rig, you must practice to control the arc of swing, and keep your finger out of the trigger guard until the muzzle is on the target. Most people do not consider this problem until it is too late. Before the pistol is lined up with the intended target, a lot of area is covered within the arc of the swing. This can be dangerous.



Hip Holster



Shoulder Holster

The was a shooting in a mall parking lot where the victim was using a shoulder rig. Some thug tried carjacking him. When he drew his pistol to defend himself, as the pistol was drawn, his finger hit the trigger and the pistol fired before it was on his intended target. When the pistol was lined up with the attacker, he fired again and hit the assailant. After the police arrived, they found another person had been shot on the other side of the parking lot. She had been hit by the bullet that was fired by mistake during the draw.

Most females carry their pistol in a purse. It is strongly

urged that if you carry this way, to use a purse that is made for carrying a pistol. This type of purse will have a separate pocket for the pistol. This is important because without this separate pocket, it might take two days to get to the pistol. Even when the pistol is found, it might have so much gunk in the barrel it might not work properly. Gun carry in a purse should only be done with a special carry purse.



Galco Purse

There are a number of ways that you can carry a pistol. Try different types of holsters based on the life style you lead. If you normally wear a suit, try holsters that work with a suit. If you wear a dress every day, and you don't carry a purse, try different holsters that might work for you including special holsters made for women that are worn on the top of the leg.

Whatever type of holster you use, make sure that you practice drawing from your carry holster. Without practice, you will not be able to draw in a smooth manner when your life is in jeopardy and you are under stress.



Ankle Holster



Inside Waistband Holster



Small Of The Back Holster

Caliber

You may have heard the term '[stopping power](#)'. This means a larger caliber bullet that hits an opponent has a greater chance of stopping them faster than a smaller caliber bullet. Example, a .22 caliber versus a .45 caliber.

Normally, the larger caliber has more power behind it and inflicts a larger wound cavity than a smaller bullet. Naturally, the more damage done to a critical zone of the opponent, the faster they will yield or be neutralized.

Another area to consider regarding caliber is the seasons of the year. A smaller caliber bullet might be effective during the summer months, however; during the winter months when more and heavier clothing is worn, it might not perform as well.

The term caliber most often appears with respect to [firearms](#), as a measure of the inside diameter of the [barrel](#) in inches or hundredths of an inch, or in millimeters.

The type of bullet you carry is also something that must be considered for your carry gun. [Full metal jacketed ammunition](#) , is not carried by many Legally Armed Citizens. The primary reason is that it can penetrate all the way through an opponent, and go beyond the intended target. Full metal jacketed ammunition is used primarily by the military, for hunting, and for target ammunition. One reason the military uses this type of ammunition is when an opposing soldier is

shot, this type of bullet leaves an opening that produces a lot of blood loss because of the penetration factor. More troops are necessary to move or take care of the fallen soldier and, this gives the opposing soldiers more targets to hit.

[Hollow Point Ammunition](#) is used by civilians and police more than full metal jacketed ammunition. The military does not use Hollow Point Ammunition because it is not allowed under provisions of the [Geneva Convention](#).



Hollow Point Ammo

Hollow Point Ammunition expands like the photo after entering a target. There is much more damage done to the opponent because more energy is expanded inside the wound cavity. With Full Metal Jacketed Ammunition, both the bullet entry and exit is fairly small. With Hollow Point Ammunition, the wound entry point is about the same but, as the bullet advances, more damage is done because the bullet expands and in some cases, comes apart. More damage is done and a persons body experiences more trauma.

Whatever type of ammunition you carry, you need to practice shooting it in your carry gun. A lot of people only use cheap ammunition when they practice. I do the same but, from time to time, you need to shoot up a box of the same ammunition you carry in your carry gun to experience the effect it has on your shooting, and your pistol. Some ammunition works fine in some handguns, but like crap in other handguns. You don't want to find this out during a self-defense incident.

Cover & Concealment

The use of [cover](#) means that proper cover should be able to stop small arms projectile penetration. [Concealment](#) means concealing some object or yourself but; it will not keep a projectile from penetration.

During a gunfight or when you have drawn your weapon for confrontation with an adversary, you want to make sure you know where you can get to quickly for cover. Even if the opponent is the only one within your sight, this does not mean there are not more of them out of your sight. Always scan the area when you have an opponent at gun point. This just might prevent another person from getting the drop on you.

Every Legally Armed Person needs to develop a means of identifying cover. This takes practice. When you are walking down the street, look for certain areas that you could get to that would offer cover in case some nut case starts shooting. Once again, you are training your body and mind to develop a keen sense to know what to do and where to go to when the crap hits the fan. After doing this for a while, when you are in a restaurant and some nut case decides his undercooked meal means everyone has to be shot, your body and mind will take over and lead you to proper cover. This does not happen every day but, more and more deadly shootings are occurring. No matter where you are, you could be at risk. You can hide using concealment but, you need to get to proper cover to stay alive.

Practice and Training

We have touched on the reason why practice and training is important. However, I want to go over this subject more. It is important that you develop gun handling skills. If you have been authorized to carry a deadly weapon, this is what you are doing...carrying a deadly weapon. If you are carrying, don't you think you should know how to properly use it? This may seem like a silly statement to some people but, I have seen people who have been carrying a weapon in their pocket or purse for about ten years and, they have never shot the pistol. I feel glad they have never been in a situation that required them to shoot the gun but, I don't really want to be in the area when they draw and fire their pistol in self-defense.

If you are not sure where to get good training in your area, speak to your local Sheriff or Chief of Police. They should be able to assist you. You can also call the State Police in your state. Let them know you are authorized to carry weapons and ask them who you could call for instruction. We post a list on our website for the state of Tennessee regarding [Handgun Permit Training](#). If you are looking for advanced training, here is good [link](#) for good training.

Once you have received training on how to shoot, move, use cover, clear malfunctions, etc., you need to practice what you have learned. Again, only by training your body and mind, will you really be ready to defend your life or help another person stay alive with the use of your sidearm.

Deadly or Lethal Force

Every state has their own definition of what constitutes Deadly or Lethal Force. You need to read and understand the definition in your home state on Deadly Force. Why? If you ask this question, you just might not be ready to carry a gun.

We have gone over liability that can affect you. However, there is more to know. Example: in your resident state, are you required to retreat before deadly force can be used? Can deadly force be used to protect property?

If you do something wrong, you could be charged with violating a law. This could mean you might be in a trial. If it is jury trial, some of the people on the jury panel will never accept the fact that you did nothing wrong by using a firearm to defend yourself. You are not a police officer. Even though the state gave you authorization to carry a deadly weapon, you are at fault...period!

Knowing this, it is important to know what you are allowed to do under your state laws, and what you cannot do. The one thing I want you to know is: When the threat is over...it is **OVER!** If you find a person in your home robbing you, and after they see you have a gun and they run from your house, **DO NOT CHASE AFTER THEM.** If you pull a gun on the street to stop some creep from robbing you, and they run when they see your gun...don't shoot them in the back or try and catch them. If you do these things, you could be charged

with a crime yourself. It is not worth the hassle and the legal fees. Once the threat is over, even if you have been hurt, do not chase after the person. Let the people who wear the blue suits and a badge do this. You could be hurt by a police officer who does not know you, or another Legally Armed Citizen who sees you running with a gun. Here is an actual case that caused a simple barber to lose his Handgun Carry Permit in Tennessee.

On one of the main streets, but in a bad section of Nashville, Wayne Martin owned a barber shop. His clients were white and black. He had been in the same neighborhood for year but, the area was more dangerous than in the past. Although Wayne Martin held a Tennessee Handgun Permit, the laws in Tennessee allows any business owner, who is not a felon, to keep a firearm on their premises for protection.

Next to his barber shop, another store sold flowers. One day Wayne heard the woman in the Flower Shop scream “He’s dragging me to the back”. Wayne told her he was coming to help her. As he ran out his door into her store, he passed a black man leaving her flower shop. When Wayne found the owner, she said the man held a knife to her throat and robbed her. When he heard Wayne yelling he was coming to help her, he left the store but, he stole all the money. Knowing how hard it is to make money in this neighborhood, Wayne decided to chase after the robber [*something he should not have done because, the THREAT was over*].

Wayne Martin found the man in the parking lot of an automobile dealership. He yelled at the man to stop, the man

did stop but he turned and produced a knife and told Wayne what he was going to do to him. Wayne produced a small revolver from his pocket and told the man not to advance. It did not work. The man came forward and Wayne fired one round. When he did this, he tripped and when he looked up the man was closer, Wayne fired another shot. The man fell dead.

The next day the Nashville newspapers told of a hero barber who helped his neighbor. The following day, another story came out about the arrest of Wayne Martin for murder. The Nashville District Attorney decided that this was a case of Vigilante Justice. Wayne had his firearm taken away, and his Handgun Permit revoked.

People, including myself, told Wayne that there was no reason to plead this type of case. The odds were high in his favor that any jury would not convict him. However, the D.A. threatened Wayne and scarred him so much about going to jail, that when a plea bargaining was made including no jail time, Wayne took the deal. He was now a felon, could not own a gun, and could not get a Handgun Carry Permit again.

The man Wayne shot had a six page criminal history. He is buried in Boot Hill in Nashville because his family did not even want to claim his body. Two years later a robber got to Wayne, this time during the chase [he did it again], Wayne Martin was shot in the head and killed.

Don't chase after anyone when the treat to you has ended. You could face criminal charges, or be killed in the chase.

Justifiable Homicide Vs. Criminal Homicide

You carry a Lethal Weapon. Used improperly, you could face [Criminal Homicide](#). Properly used, you could have a [Justifiable Homicide](#). Notice one thing, both of these contain the same word...homicide. In one, criminal homicide, you would be charged with a criminal act. If it is considered a Justifiable Homicide, you will be excused for the killing of another human.

Going back to the previous page regarding chasing a person. Here is an example between these two categories. I must now say I am **not** an attorney and this is not legal advise. Questions about Lethal Force Laws should be asked of an attorney. I know that some attorney out in Hyperspace is just sitting and scanning the Internet for someone to offer legal advise without a license. Well, it is not going to be me!

Getting back to the hypothetical example. You arrive home and find a robber in your home. He is armed and you shoot at each other. He is killed in your home. This would give indication that it is justifiable because, it was your home and he was not invited in to rob you plus, he was armed.

Next scenario, you find an armed robber in your home. You both exchange shots. No one is hit and the robber runs out of your home. You decide to chase after him. You shoot him and he is dead. You could be charged because the threat was over when you elected to chase after him. Get the point.

Reciprocity

More states are beginning to honor other state License or Permit to carry Weapons. If you are interested in what states honor yours, use this link: [state carry cards](#).

When you carry into another state, you need to understand the rules and regulations within each state. In the last few years if you violated a provision of another state's law, you would just get a slap on the wrist. However, most states are issuing 1st degree misdemeanors for violating their state law. The reason for this is that most states believe that carry laws have been on the books long enough, and people should know what the do's and don'ts are in their state.

We have tried to assist in this area by linking the regulatory agency for each state onto state pages. Whatever state you have received a Carry License or Permit from, just look at this page and click on that state's flag: [State Pages](#) Also look at each state page and if you want to keep a good publication in your vehicle that you can refer to when you travel with your weapon, get one of our Legally Armed Travel Guides. Remember that each state has their own laws. When traveling with your firearm, it is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations wherever you carry your sidearm. Also, some states have laws that specifically address interaction with police officers in their state. Check on our website and also think about our [Legally Armed I.D. Pouch](#) to keep your Carry License or Permit.

Good Witness Vs. A Dead Piece Of Meat

Being authorized to carry a weapon does not mean you have to jump into every situation. You have been authorized to carry a weapon for self-defense only. You are not in law enforcement, you do not have the authority to enforce any laws, or use the weapon to inflict street justice.

There are a number of things you can do if something happens in your presence. Being a good witness is one of the best things you can do. It is also training yourself to recognize certain things that could help you in the future.

Lets say you are in a bank and a robbery happens. If you elect to jump into the situation with guns blazing and an innocent person is hurt, it could be you who will be taking out money from the bank to pay the civil penalties you might get. Take the description of the robber. What were they wearing? Did you see them communicate with any accomplice? Did you recognize a particular tone to their voice [Northern or Southern accent]? Did you see what type of vehicle they left in? These are just some things you could help with.

Also, if you are ever in a self-defense shooting incident, try and get good descriptions of what happened up to and after the shooting. What time of the day did it occur. What was the weather like. What did the person say to you. What caused you to pull your weapon [this is important because they are going to have another story]. What were they wearing. Train yourself to remember these things and it will help you later.

Be Pro-Active

Carry Laws started to come around during the 1970's after a young lady was killed on the streets of New York with a knife, and no one came to her aid. It was so gruesome that lyrics were made into a folk song:

“O look outside the window, there's a woman being grabbed. They've dragged her to the bushes, and now she's being stabbed. Maybe we should call the cops and try to stop the pain. But Monopoly is so much fun, I'd hate to blow the game. And, I'm sure it wouldn't interest anybody outside of a small circle of friends”.

These lyrics were written by Phil Ochs in the song

“outside a small circle of friends”.

The young lady was **Kitty Genovese** and she was killed in a residential area of New York in 1964. Thirty-eight people watched as she was being stabbed, and no one came to her aid. Outrage was the theme of the day because no one did anything to help this young girl. One of the reasons was that the killer had a knife, and most people did not want to get hurt.

This is when some pro-active people got involved in trying to get carry laws passed in various states. It took many years but, this was the primary reason why carry laws became state issues.

Now, most states allow for law abiding citizens to be armed for self-protection. However, there is always a need to make carry laws better.

Are you allowed to carry a weapon into a restaurant that sells alcohol if you are not consuming? Can you take your weapon into a rest area on your state highways? Do you have to retreat before you can use deadly force?

These are just some areas that need to be addressed. Take time to review your state's law regarding legally carrying weapons. Do what you can do to place fewer restrictions on where you can carry your weapon. Lets face it, the criminals, nut jobs, terrorists, and thugs, don't care where they can't carry weapons. They are going to do it anyway. Only law abiding Legally Armed Citizens obey these laws.

By helping to make your own state laws better for you, you have helped all of the millions of Legally Armed Citizens around the USA, be treated better.

I hope you have found this publication beneficial. If you want to send a comment or ask a question, send it to:

packingheat@legallyarmed.com

Best regards,

Gene Kennedy

Here are the links for items in this publication that have links that don't work. Copy and paste in your browser.

Page 4, [Arizona](#)

<http://ccw.azdps.gov/default.asp>

Page 5, [firearm safety](#)

<http://www.nrahq.org/education/guide.asp>

Page 5, [Ignorance](#)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/ignorance>

Page 5, [Carelessness](#)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/carelessness>

Page 6, [unauthorized](#)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/unauthorized>

Page 6, [self-defense](#)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/self-defense>

Page 9, [Carcinogenic Agent](#)

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Carcinogenic>

Page 12, [Rory Vertigan](#)

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,27142,00.html?iid=chix-sphere>

Page 19, [stopping power](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stopping_power

Page 19, [firearms](#)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firearm>

Page 19, [barrel](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_barrel

Page 19, [full metal jacked ammunition](#)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Full_metal_jacket_\(bullet\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Full_metal_jacket_(bullet))

Page 20, [hollow point ammunition](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollow_point_bullet

Page 20, Geneva Convention

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva_convention

Page 21, cover

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cover_\(military\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cover_(military))

Page 21, concealment

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concealment>

Page 22, Handgun Permit Training

<http://legallyarmed.com/tnpermitschools.html>

Page 22, Link

<http://www.rattlesnakeridge.org/>

Page 26, Criminal Homicide

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homicide>

Page 26, Justifiable Homicide

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justifiable_homicide

Page 27, state carry cards

<http://legallyarmed.com/resources/statecard.html>

Page 27, State pages

<http://legallyarmed.com/>

Page 27, Legally Armed I.D. pouch

<http://legallyarmed.com/resources/idpouch.htm>