

# South Carolina Gun Laws & Firearms Safety Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Which of the following is a requirement for all retail firearm purchases in South Carolina?**
  - A. The buyer must have a South Carolina hunting license**
  - B. The firearm must be registered with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division**
  - C. The buyer must pass a federal background check**
  - D. The buyer must be a resident of South Carolina for at least one year**
  
- 2. What is the minimum age requirement for obtaining a concealed weapons permit in South Carolina?**
  - A. 18 years old**
  - B. 21 years old**
  - C. 25 years old**
  - D. 30 years old**
  
- 3. In South Carolina, is a background check required for private gun sales?**
  - A. Yes, for all firearms**
  - B. Yes, but only for handguns**
  - C. No**
  - D. Yes, but only at gun shows**
  
- 4. Can non-residents obtain a CWP in South Carolina?**
  - A. Yes, if they own property in the state**
  - B. Yes, but only for military personnel**
  - C. No, only residents can obtain a CWP**
  - D. Yes, if they work in the state**
  
- 5. Does South Carolina have a 'stand your ground' law?**
  - A. Yes, in all circumstances**
  - B. Yes, but only within one's home**
  - C. No, there is no such law in South Carolina**
  - D. It depends on county ordinances**

- 6. Do you need a permit to purchase a handgun in South Carolina?**
- A. Yes, always**
  - B. No, but registration is required**
  - C. No, a permit is not required**
  - D. Yes, but only for residents of another state**
- 7. When transporting a firearm in a vehicle, how must the firearm be stored if you do not have a concealed weapon permit?**
- A. In the glove compartment**
  - B. Unloaded in a locked box**
  - C. In a holster**
  - D. Loaded but not within reach**
- 8. Which of the following locations is it illegal to carry a concealed weapon in South Carolina?**
- A. State parks**
  - B. Restaurants serving alcohol**
  - C. Places of worship**
  - D. Courthouses**
- 9. Are background checks required for private firearm sales in South Carolina?**
- A. Yes, for all private sales**
  - B. No, background checks are not required**
  - C. Yes, but only for handguns**
  - D. Yes, but only for sales at gun shows**
- 10. What must be done if a South Carolina concealed weapon permit is lost or stolen?**
- A. Notify the issuing sheriff's office within 24 hours**
  - B. Apply for a new permit**
  - C. Report it to the police within 48 hours**
  - D. Nothing, you can continue to carry until the expiration**

## **Answers**

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1. C
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. D
9. B
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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1. Which of the following is a requirement for all retail firearm purchases in South Carolina?
- A. The buyer must have a South Carolina hunting license
  - B. The firearm must be registered with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
  - C. The buyer must pass a federal background check**
  - D. The buyer must be a resident of South Carolina for at least one year

A background check is required for all retail firearm purchases in South Carolina. This is to ensure that the buyer is eligible to purchase a firearm and does not have a criminal record or other disqualifying factors. Option A is incorrect because a hunting license is not required for all retail firearm purchases, only for certain types of firearms such as hunting rifles. Option B is incorrect because South Carolina does not have a firearm registration requirement. Option D is incorrect because there is no residency requirement for purchasing a firearm in South Carolina.

2. What is the minimum age requirement for obtaining a concealed weapons permit in South Carolina?
- A. 18 years old
  - B. 21 years old**
  - C. 25 years old
  - D. 30 years old

The minimum age requirement for obtaining a concealed weapons permit in South Carolina is 21 years old. This age restriction is in place to ensure that individuals who seek to carry a concealed weapon possess a certain level of maturity and responsibility required to handle firearms safely and in accordance with the law. The age limit is reflective of the broader legal stipulations in many states that prohibit individuals under 21 from purchasing handguns or obtaining permits related to handgun carry. This aligns with the intent to promote responsible gun ownership and safeguard public safety.

3. In South Carolina, is a background check required for private gun sales?
- A. Yes, for all firearms
  - B. Yes, but only for handguns
  - C. No**
  - D. Yes, but only at gun shows

In South Carolina, a background check is not required for private gun sales. This means that when individuals sell firearms to one another without involving a licensed dealer, there is no statutory obligation for the seller to conduct a background check on the buyer. This policy reflects the state's approach to private sales, distinguishing them from sales conducted by licensed firearm dealers, which are subject to federal and state laws requiring background checks. This lack of requirement for background checks in private transactions can raise concerns regarding gun safety and the potential for firearms to be sold to individuals who may not legally be permitted to possess them.

**4. Can non-residents obtain a CWP in South Carolina?**

- A. Yes, if they own property in the state**
- B. Yes, but only for military personnel**
- C. No, only residents can obtain a CWP**
- D. Yes, if they work in the state**

Non-residents can obtain a CWP (Concealed Weapons Permit) in South Carolina if they own property in the state. This is because they technically have a residence in the state, even if it is not their primary one. Option B is incorrect because it limits the eligibility for obtaining a CWP to military personnel only, which is not true. Option C is incorrect because non-residents can obtain a CWP in South Carolina. Option D is incorrect because it limits the eligibility for obtaining a CWP to only those who work in the state, which is not true.

**5. Does South Carolina have a 'stand your ground' law?**

- A. Yes, in all circumstances**
- B. Yes, but only within one's home**
- C. No, there is no such law in South Carolina**
- D. It depends on county ordinances**

South Carolina does indeed have a "stand your ground" law that permits individuals to use force, including lethal force, in self-defense when they believe it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to themselves or others. This law allows individuals to take action without the duty to retreat, regardless of where they are, as long as they are in a place where they have the right to be. This broad application of the law encompasses all situations where a person perceives an immediate threat, not limiting it to just their home or a specific location. Consequently, the law provides individuals with more freedom to protect themselves in various environments, whether public or private. Understanding "stand your ground" laws is crucial for firearm owners and those who carry weapons for self-defense, as it impacts how they may legally respond to threats. An awareness of these laws promotes responsible firearm handling and decision-making in potentially dangerous situations.

**6. Do you need a permit to purchase a handgun in South Carolina?**

- A. Yes, always**
- B. No, but registration is required**
- C. No, a permit is not required**
- D. Yes, but only for residents of another state**

In South Carolina, you do not need a permit to purchase a handgun. This means that individuals who are legally allowed to own firearms can buy handguns without needing to obtain a specific permit beforehand. The state does not require a gun registration process for handguns either, so this option correctly reflects the state's regulations surrounding handgun purchases. Understanding this context is important because it clarifies the state's stance on gun ownership and purchasing processes, differentiating South Carolina from states that have more stringent requirements such as mandatory permits or firearm registrations.

**7. When transporting a firearm in a vehicle, how must the firearm be stored if you do not have a concealed weapon permit?**

- A. In the glove compartment**
- B. Unloaded in a locked box**
- C. In a holster**
- D. Loaded but not within reach**

When transporting a firearm in a vehicle in South Carolina without a concealed weapon permit, the law requires that the firearm must be stored in a manner that ensures both safety and compliance with legal regulations. Specifically, the correct answer involves storing the firearm unloaded and in a locked box. This method effectively prevents access to the firearm by unauthorized individuals and reduces the risk of accidents during transport. Transporting the firearm unloaded in a locked box helps ensure that the firearm is not readily accessible, thus enhancing safety for both the driver and passengers. This storage method also aligns with legal requirements designed to promote responsible firearm handling and transportation practices.

**8. Which of the following locations is it illegal to carry a concealed weapon in South Carolina?**

- A. State parks**
- B. Restaurants serving alcohol**
- C. Places of worship**
- D. Courthouses**

In South Carolina, it is illegal to carry a concealed weapon in courthouses. This restriction is based on the state's emphasis on maintaining safety and order in judicial environments where sensitive legal proceedings take place. Courthouses often host a variety of individuals, including jurors, witnesses, and victims, and the presence of firearms can create potential risks or intimidations during legal matters. The legal framework surrounding concealed carry permits specifically enumerates courthouses as locations where weapons are prohibited, reflecting a broader intention to ensure that such environments remain secure and free from potential violence. While carrying concealed weapons is allowed in certain public spaces like state parks, restaurants serving alcohol (under specific conditions), and places of worship (also under certain conditions), the strict prohibition in courthouses highlights the unique security needs of these institutions.

**9. Are background checks required for private firearm sales in South Carolina?**

- A. Yes, for all private sales**
- B. No, background checks are not required**
- C. Yes, but only for handguns**
- D. Yes, but only for sales at gun shows**

In South Carolina, background checks are not required for private sales of firearms. This means that if you are selling a gun to someone in a private transaction, there is no legal requirement to run a background check on the buyer. This law facilitates private sales and transfers between individuals without the need for intermediary checks, which is contrasted with sales conducted through licensed dealers, where background checks are mandatory. While there are some states that have stricter regulations requiring background checks for private sales, South Carolina does not impose such requirements, leading to the correct answer being that background checks are not required in these situations. This context clarifies why options suggesting mandatory checks for all sales or for specific types of sales—such as handguns or at gun shows—are not applicable in South Carolina's current legislation.

**10. What must be done if a South Carolina concealed weapon permit is lost or stolen?**

- A. Notify the issuing sheriff's office within 24 hours**
- B. Apply for a new permit**
- C. Report it to the police within 48 hours**
- D. Nothing, you can continue to carry until the expiration**

If a South Carolina concealed weapon permit is lost or stolen, the appropriate action is to report it to the police within a specified timeframe, typically within 48 hours. This step is crucial for several reasons. First, it creates an official record of the loss or theft, which helps protect the permit holder in case the permit is misused by someone else. By notifying law enforcement, the individual ensures there is a documented report should the stolen permit be involved in any illegal activity, separating themselves from potential liability. While the other actions mentioned may seem relevant, they do not address the immediate legal responsibilities linked to the loss or theft of the permit. Notifying the issuing sheriff's office is typically important but generally follows the initial police report. Additionally, simply applying for a new permit does not suffice until the loss is officially reported, and continuing to carry without addressing the loss poses legal risks.