

Don't Even THINK About It!

Obliterating or altering the manufacturer's serial number on a firearm - or even knowingly transporting or possessing such a firearm - is punishable by up to five years in prison.

Possessing or transferring a machinegun manufactured on or after May 19, 1986, is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. And even if you have a machinegun made before that date, you can still go to prison for up to 10 years if you haven't registered it with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

If you make or possess a firearm silencer, a destructive device, or a short-barreled shotgun or short-barreled rifle without registering it with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, you can also go to prison for up to ten years.



Project Safe Vermont is a statewide initiative to reduce illegal gun possession through aggressive federal prosecution, education and public awareness. It is a cooperative effort between federal, state and private agencies.

Members of the Project Safe Vermont Task Force include:

U.S. Attorney's Office
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms & Explosives
Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault
Vermont Center For Justice Research
Vermont Attorney General's Office
Vermont State's Attorneys and Sheriffs
Vermont Department of Corrections
Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
City of Rutland Police Department
Victim Survivor Council
Vermont Center For Crime Victim Services

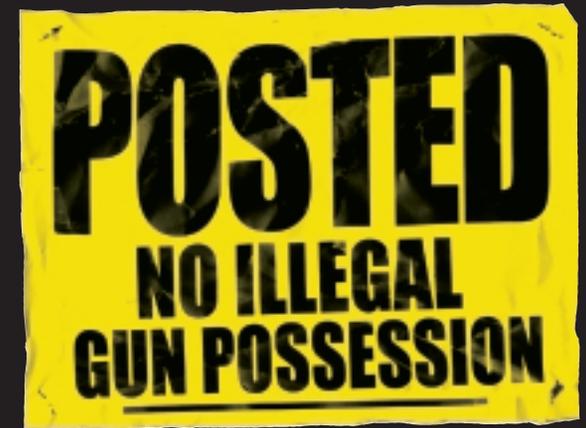


www.usdoj.gov/usao/vt

Questions? Tel: 802-951-6593

This information is intended only to highlight key aspects of federal law with respect to firearms purchase, possession, and use, particularly as they relate to Project Safe Neighborhoods.

The brochure is not a complete statement of the law nor should it be relied upon as such. Other terms, conditions, and exceptions not made explicit here may be applicable.

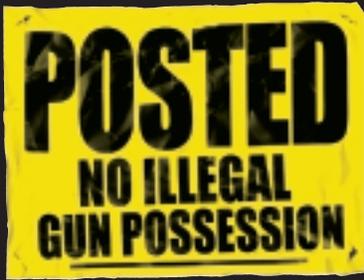


**What Every Convicted
Felon, Drug Dealer,
Domestic Violence Perpetrator,
Illegal Drug User,
Armed Criminal,
and Illegal Firearms
Trafficker Should Know**



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Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to get gun-wielding criminals off America's streets. In every community, federal, state and local law enforcement are working together to arrest, prosecute and put in prison criminals who illegally use or possess guns. If you are caught using or possessing a gun in violation of the law, you will go to prison.

Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, United States Attorneys are ready to bring cases involving illegal guns to federal court. Prosecution in federal court means that if you are caught using or possessing a gun illegally, you may not be entitled to bail - instead, you'll go straight to jail. And if you are convicted in federal court, you'll serve your entire sentence in prison with no parole. There are no second chances under this program.

So it's smart to stay away from guns if you are in one of the categories described in this pamphlet. And if anyone you know is in one of these categories, let them know what you've learned. Save yourself, your friends, or your family members from serious prison time - read this information and spread the word.

PROJECT
SAFE
NEIGHBORHOODS
America's Network Against Gun Violence

Do You Belong to One of These Groups?

If you fit into one of these categories, you are prohibited from possessing any kind of gun or ammunition:

- Convicted felons (convicted at state or federal level)
- Fugitives from justice (interstate flight to avoid prosecution or testimony)
- Drug users or addicts
- Aliens in the U.S. illegally or non-immigrant aliens
- Mental defectives or persons committed at any time to mental institutions
- People who have formally given up their U.S. citizenship
- People who have been dishonorably discharged from the armed services
- People involved in committing domestic violence:
 - Anyone subject to a court order (protective order) forbidding him or her from stalking, harassing, or threatening an intimate partner or that partner's child
 - Anyone convicted of a misdemeanor crime involving violence or a threat with a deadly weapon if the convicted person was the victim's current or former spouse, live-in boyfriend or girlfriend, or parent or guardian

If you're caught with a gun, you can face harsh penalties in federal prison with no possibility of parole. And, if you have three or more prior violent felony or serious drug offense convictions, you face a minimum of 15 years in prison without parole.

Helping Someone in One of the Groups to Get a Gun or Ammunition? Don't Risk It!

Even if you are not in one of these groups, you have committed a crime and can go to federal prison if you help anyone in one of these categories get a gun or ammunition. It does not matter whether you knew the person was in one of the groups; if you buy a gun for someone else and lie on the federal form about whom the gun is for, you have committed a federal crime.

Using, Carrying, or Possessing a Firearm in Connection with a Drug-Trafficking Crime or Crime of Violence

Whether or not you have ever been convicted of any crime, if you use or brandish, display, carry, or possess a firearm in a way designed to further or carry out a drug-trafficking crime or a federal crime of violence, you can be charged - in addition to the crime itself - with a federal firearms crime. In fact, you can be convicted of this offense even if the gun is not on your person! The minimum sentence you can get for this crime is 5 years, with no parole. The sentence must be served in addition to any other sentence for the drug trafficking or violent crime. And, if you are convicted of another count of carrying a firearm during a drug-trafficking or violent crime - even during the same trial - you will automatically receive another 25 years.

Stolen Guns

If you steal guns or have anything to do with guns that you know or have reasonable cause to believe were stolen, you can go to prison for up to 10 years.

Guns and Juveniles

Possessing or discharging a firearm in a school zone can get you a prison sentence of up to five years. If you give or sell a handgun (or ammunition used only in handguns) to someone under 18 and you knew or had reasonable cause to know that the juvenile intended to carry, possess, or discharge the handgun or otherwise use the handgun or ammunition during a violent crime, you can go to prison for up to 10 years.