

New laws for Handgun Licensing Program (Formerly known as Concealed Handgun Licensing)

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/rsd/chl/legal/newlegislation.htm>

Open Carry

Effective: January 1, 2016

Caption: Relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry a holstered handgun; creating criminal offense.

General information:

- Authorizes individuals to obtain a license to openly carry a handgun in the same places that allow the licensed carrying of a concealed handgun with some exceptions. (See "Exceptions" below for more information.)
- Unconcealed handguns, loaded or unloaded, must be carried in a shoulder or belt holster.
- Individuals who hold a valid CHL may continue to carry with valid existing license.

Concealed / Open Carry Signage:

- Include the following text in English and in Spanish:
- "Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun"
- "Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly."
- Appear in contrasting colors with block letters at least one inch in height; and
- Be displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public at each entrance to the property.
- DPS does not furnish or sell these signs. Private property owners may print the signs or purchase the signs from a commercial printing company.

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Exceptions:

- Open carry is not permitted by a license holder regardless of whether the handgun is holstered:

on the premises of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education

on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage or other parking area of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education

by an individual who is acting as a personal protection officer under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code and is not wearing a uniform

Questions:

Texas Department of Public Safety
Handgun Licensing – MSC 0245
PO Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0001
512.424.7293

Additional Resources:

House Bill 910, <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/html/HB00910F.htm>