

Use of Concealed Carry While Trapping

State law now allows an individual *who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm* to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Maine without a permit. Concealed carry without a permit is limited to people who are 21 or older, with the following exception: If a person is 18 years of age or older, and is on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, or has been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces or the National Guard, and is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm, the person may carry a concealed handgun. A person who is 18-20 years old and without the referenced military qualifications must have a permit to carry concealed. The law pertains only to handguns (revolvers and pistols), not all weapons. It is important to remember that THIS LAW DOES NOT authorize persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms to carry them. This law does nothing to change that prohibition. This law authorizes a person to possess a loaded pistol or revolver while in a motor vehicle, trailer or other vehicle being hauled by a motor vehicle.

A person (trapper) may exit a motor vehicle or motor boat with a concealed weapon and use that firearm without unloading and reloading it to dispatch a trapped animal as long as they are in accordance with all other applicable firearms laws.

All state laws pertaining to the discharge of a firearm apply such as; a person may not shoot while in or on a motor vehicle or motor boat or while in or on a trailer or other type of vehicle being hauled by a motor vehicle (there are several exceptions such as while waterfowl hunting or by disabled persons). A firearm may not be discharged across a public paved way. An individual must not be within 10 feet of said pavement when discharging a weapon, nor within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling without permission.

If an individual is carrying a concealed handgun “without a permit”, he/she has a duty, when coming into contact with any law enforcement officer during a routine stop, detention or arrest, to immediately inform the law enforcement officer that the individual is carrying a concealed handgun.

The law applies to both residents and nonresidents.

Note: It is illegal to possess a firearm in certain places within the State of Maine; a review of state and federal laws is required to review these restrictions. Firearms laws are complex. This summary is necessarily just an overview.