

## Know the Law.

The Firearm Owner's Identification card was created in 1968 by the Firearm Owners Identification Card (FOID) Act, 430 ILCS 65, as a way to regulate possession and acquisition of firearms and firearm ammunition as part of a public safety initiative in the State of Illinois.

Unless specifically exempted by statute, any Illinois resident who acquires or possesses firearms or firearm ammunition within the State must have in his or her possession a valid FOID card issued in his or her name.

Before acquiring a firearm, check with your local municipality for possible firearm ordinances. Some communities may have laws prohibiting possession of specific types of firearms and/or requiring that firearms be secured within the home. The Illinois State Police compiles these ordinances, when provided by the local municipalities, and provides them to the public via the internet at [www.isp.state.il.us](http://www.isp.state.il.us).

**For more detailed  
information about  
Illinois firearm laws,  
please contact:**

Illinois State Police  
Firearms Services Bureau  
(217) 782-7980  
[www.isp.state.il.us](http://www.isp.state.il.us)

Office of the Illinois Attorney General  
Illegal Firearms Reduction Unit  
(312) 814-2584  
[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)

or

Your Local Police Department

*DISCLAIMER: The information provided with this pamphlet is intended only as general guidance. This pamphlet is not intended to replace statutory language.*



This project was supported by Award No. 2001-DD-BX-0063 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. 04/04.20M.C04-538  
This material is available in alternate format upon request.

# Acquiring or Transferring Firearms in Illinois

## Obtaining a FOID Card

A Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) application can be downloaded from the Illinois State Police web site at [www.isp.state.il.us](http://www.isp.state.il.us). Applications may also be obtained at most retail stores where firearms are sold.

---

## Acquiring Firearms from a Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) Gun Dealer in Illinois

- Buyer must possess a valid FOID card.
- Buyer must verify local firearm ordinance requirements.
- Buyer must display valid FOID card to FFL prior to handling firearm.
- Buyer must complete Federal Form ATF 4473.
- FFL notifies the Illinois State Police (ISP), Firearms Services Bureau to perform a background check in accordance with state and federal laws.
- FFL receives an "Approval" from ISP to transfer the firearm.
- Buyer must abide by the State of Illinois waiting period before taking possession of the firearm. The waiting period for a long gun is 24 hours and 72 hours for a hand gun.
- Upon taking possession of the firearm, the firearm must be unloaded and enclosed in a case to transport.

---

## Acquiring or Transferring Firearms - Private Citizen Transfer in Illinois

- Private Citizen is defined as "Any person who is not a Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) gun dealer who desires to acquire or transfer firearms."
- Seller and Buyer must possess a valid FOID card.
- Seller and Buyer must verify local firearm ordinance requirements.
- Buyer must display his or her valid FOID card prior to handling the firearm.
- Buyer must abide by the State of Illinois waiting period before taking possession of the firearm. The waiting period for a long gun is 24 hours and 72 hours for a hand gun.
- Seller must keep a record of such transfer for a period of 10 years from the date of transfer.
- The record must contain the date of the transfer, the description, serial number, or other information identifying the firearm if no serial number is available.
- Upon transfer of possession, the firearm must be unloaded and enclosed in a case to transport.

## The Illinois State Police will revoke an individual's FOID card if the individual:

- is under indictment for a felony;
- has been convicted of a felony;
- is a fugitive from justice;
- is a controlled substance and/or narcotics user or addict;
- has been a patient in a mental institution in the past five years;
- has been discharged dishonorably from the armed forces;
- is the subject of an Order of Protection or has been convicted of a crime involving domestic violence;
- has renounced U.S. citizenship; or
- is an alien who is illegally or unlawfully in the United States.

*An individual possessing a revoked FOID card will receive notification to return the invalid card to ISP. The individual, who has been determined by the ISP to be ineligible to possess or acquire firearms, may appeal this decision in accordance with the Firearm Owners Identification Act, 430 ILCS 65/10.*

This list is not meant to be all inclusive: refer to the statute for complete details.