

Background Checks for Firearm Transfers in Minnesota

- No state or federal background check requirement for transfers of any firearm between private parties living in Minnesota.
- Background checks required for transfers of pistols and SAMSAWs from dealers. Federal law requires National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check. State law has add on that transferee must produce a valid permit to purchase (also known as a transferee permit) or permit to carry (both of which require background checks at time of issuance) or that a transfer report be filed with local law enforcement (this also prompts a background check).
- Background checks required for transfers of other firearms (long guns) from dealers. Federal NICS check only. No additional state law add on.
- Federal NICS check occurs at point of sale and is typically instantaneous.
- State background check requirements (applicable only to transfers of pistols and SAMSAWs from a dealer) take time (five business days/seven days for permit to purchase or transfer report, 30 days for permit to carry). A person wanting to fulfill the state background check requirement and not face a waiting period at the point of sale must already have a valid permit to purchase or carry.
- Permits to carry are valid for five years and require training and a fee. Background check at time of issuance. Requires subsequent annual electronic background checks and authorizes additional checks at discretion of law enforcement.
- Permits to purchase are free and valid for one year. Background check at time of issuance. No provision for follow-up background checks.
- Transfer reports are free and valid for a single transfer (which can involve multiple firearms) but result in a waiting period to complete the transfer.
- State law provides exceptions to the transfer requirements for certain transfers (specified loans, repairs, etc.).

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