

What this deck covers

Six topics, in the order we will work through them.

01 Handgun safety fundamentals

02 Safe handling and range proficiency

03 Texas License to Carry rules

04 HB 1927 permitless carry (2021)

05 Where you can and cannot carry

06 Safe storage and child-access rules



Four safety rules that never change

01

Treat every gun as loaded.

02

Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

03

Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

04

Know your target and what is beyond it.

Treat every handgun as loaded until you have verified it is empty. Work through these three checks in order.

- 1 Remove the magazine
- 2 Lock the slide open, or open the cylinder on a revolver
- 3 Visually and physically check the chamber

Open carry requires a holster

As of September 1, 2021, an openly carried handgun must be in a holster. DPS notes there is no specific holster type required. Holsterless intentional display in public is an offense. Do not wave or casually display the handgun.





Training is 4 to 6 hours, a written exam, and live fire

Texas statutes require classroom instruction and a range demonstration of safe handgun use before an LTC can be issued.

01 Classroom

About 4 to 6 hours covering handgun law, safe handling, nonviolent dispute resolution, and safe storage, including child-access storage.

02 Written exam

Pass the course examination after the classroom portion.

03 Range demonstration

Complete a live-fire proficiency demonstration that shows safe handgun use on the range.

Build each shot from these five fundamentals



01

Stance

Plant a stable base. Feet about shoulder-width, knees soft, weight slightly forward.

02

Grip

High two-hand grip. Thumbs forward along the frame with firm, equal pressure.

03

Sight alignment

Front sight centered in the rear notch, equal light on both sides, tops level.

04

Breath control

Settle the sights at the natural pause after you exhale, then start the press.

05

Trigger press

Press straight back smoothly. Keep the sight picture still through the break.

Stop and make the gun safe if anything feels wrong on the line.

Who can apply for a Texas LTC

Most applicants must be 21 or older, meet federal handgun-purchase rules, and not be disqualified under state or federal law.

— Eligibility basics

- Age 21 or older in most cases
- Meet federal handgun-purchase qualifications
- Not otherwise disqualified under Texas or federal law
- Out-of-state residents may qualify under Texas law if they meet DPS requirements

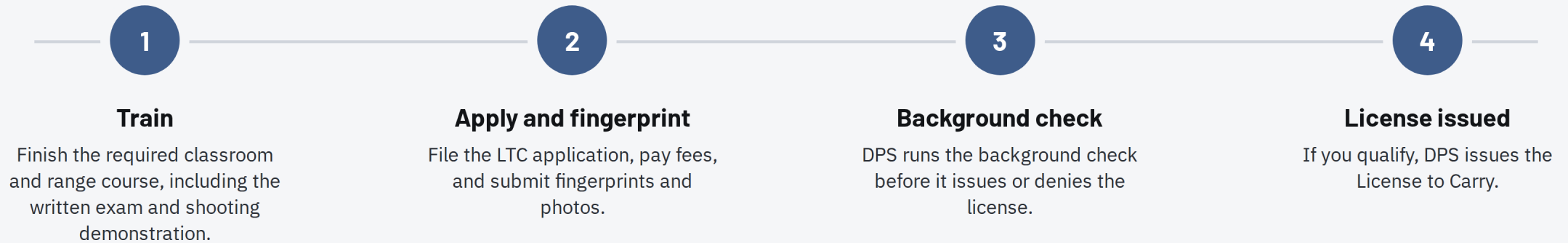
DPS notes exceptions for some military and veteran applicants.

— Common disqualifiers

- Felony convictions
- Certain Class A or Class B misdemeanor convictions
- Some pending criminal charges
- Chemical or alcohol dependency
- Certain psychological diagnoses
- Protective or restraining orders

How the LTC application works

Complete DPS-required training, submit the application with fingerprints and photos, and pass the background check.



Out-of-state applicants

Out-of-state residents and people moving to Texas with intent to establish residency may apply. Supporting documents include form LTC-6, two passport-style photos, and a copy of an out-of-state ID.

Why an LTC still helps

Even after permitless carry, an LTC still matters for interstate reciprocity and for some campus-carry situations at public higher-education institutions.

September 1, 2021

HB 1927 made permitless handgun carry legal for many adults 21+

The Firearms Act of 2021 removed the general LTC requirement for adults who can legally possess a firearm. It changed who may carry. It did not erase location bans in Penal Code § 46.03.

Who may carry

Adults 21 or older who are not prohibited from possessing firearms may carry a handgun openly or concealed without an LTC.

Open-carry holster rule

Open carry is allowed, but the handgun must be in a holster. Holsterless intentional display in public is an offense.

What stayed the same

Location bans in § 46.03 remained in place. The law covers handguns only, not long guns.

Why many people still get an LTC

Permitless carry covers ordinary public carry for eligible adults 21+. An LTC remains useful for reciprocity, some campus rules, and proof of training.

	Permitless carry	Texas LTC
Age baseline	Adults 21+ who are not otherwise prohibited	Generally 21+, with limited military and veteran exceptions
Training required	None required for ordinary public carry	4–6 hours of classroom training, a written exam, and a shooting proficiency demo
Reciprocity	Texas-only; other states do not recognize it	Often recognized by other states for interstate carry
Campus usefulness	Does not unlock public higher-education campus carry	Limited campus carry may be available under current university rules
Location bans	Still apply in full	Still apply in full; an LTC does not override them

| An LTC does not let you ignore prohibited-location laws under Texas Penal Code § 46.03.

Carry stays banned in these places with or without an LTC

HB 1927 did not change location bans under Texas Penal Code § 46.03. An LTC does not override these statutory prohibitions.



K-12 schools

School grounds, school-sponsored activities, and school transportation vehicles



Secured airport areas

Beyond security screening and other secured zones



Hospitals and nursing homes

When proper statutory notice is posted



Racetracks

Licensed horse and greyhound racetracks



Polling places

On election day and during early voting



Correctional facilities

Prisons, jails, and detention facilities



Mental and state hospitals

With the required statutory notice



Certain sporting events

High school, collegiate, and other sporting events covered by statute



Courthouses

Courthouses and court offices



51% alcohol businesses

Places deriving 51% or more of revenue from on-premises alcohol sales



Amusement parks

Parks that meet the statute's size and ticketed-entry criteria



Government meetings

Open meetings of a governmental entity when statute or notice bans carry

Also note

Higher-education buildings are generally off-limits, though LTC holders may have limited campus-carry access in some areas. Institutions can still restrict specific places with notice. **Execution-day zones** within the statutory distance are also banned on the day of an execution.

You may carry where the law does not expressly prohibit it

Texas DPS guidance for license holders. The practical question is whether a place is under a statutory ban or has valid notice.

01 Statutory bans

Places banned by law are off-limits even with no sign. Schools, courthouses, polling places, and similar locations stay prohibited.

02 Posted notice

Hospitals, nursing homes, mental hospitals, and some government meetings can restrict carry when they give proper statutory notice.

03 Private property

Owners and institutions can still restrict carry with valid written or posted notice. Read the signs carefully.

When in doubt, do not carry into the space.



Store unloaded firearms when they are not under your control

Use a locked container or a locked device. Keep ammunition secured separately when practical.

- ☒ Put the firearm in a locked container, or attach a locked device, whenever you are not controlling it.
- ☒ Store it unloaded before it goes into the safe or lock.
- ☒ Keep ammunition in a separate secured place when that is practical.

Why LTC training covers this: child-access storage is a required topic because unsecured guns are a leading preventable risk around kids and visitors.



Before your LTC class: a quick checklist



Confirm age and eligibility

Applicants are generally 21 or older, with exceptions for certain military and veteran applicants. You must also meet federal handgun-purchase qualifications and not be disqualified under state or federal law.



Schedule a DPS-qualified instructor

You need 4 to 6 hours of classroom training, a written examination, and a proficiency demonstration (shooting). Book the course with a DPS-qualified instructor before you apply.



Bring required ID and plan for fingerprints

The process includes your application, fingerprinting, training, and a background check. Have valid ID ready when you go in for fingerprints.



Practice safe handling dry before live fire

Rehearse loading, unloading, and safe muzzle discipline with an unloaded firearm so the range portion is about skill, not first-time handling.



Review prohibited locations and HB 1927

Skim where carry is banned and what HB 1927 changed on September 1, 2021, so the classroom law sections are review rather than first exposure.

Official sources to verify

Applications, FAQs, reciprocity

Texas DPS Handgun Licensing

Use DPS pages for LTC applications, eligibility FAQs, licensing and registration steps, and reciprocity information.

- Application FAQs
- Licensing and registration
- [texas.gov handgun license page](#)

Statute summaries

Texas State Law Library

Use the Law Library gun-law guides for clear summaries of License to Carry statutes and related carry rules.

- Gun laws guide
- License to Carry overview

Laws and posted rules can change. Verify before you carry in a new place.