

## HOW CAN I LEGALLY TRANSPORT OR POSSESS AMMUNITION?

Illinois law requires residents possessing ammunition have a valid FOID card. The location of ammunition being transported, including ammunition being transported in loaded magazines, is not regulated if the firearm is possessed or transported lawfully. However, when transporting DO NOT store a loaded magazine in the firearm's well, clear the chamber and clear a revolver's cylinder of ammunition.

## IS IT LEGAL TO HAVE AMMUNITION IN THE CASE WITH THE FIREARM?

Yes, as long as the firearm is unloaded and properly enclosed in a case.

## CAN I KEEP A FIREARM IN MY HOTEL ROOM WHEN I TRAVEL?

Yes, assuming no local ordinance applies. The critical question is how the firearm was carried into the room and transported in a vehicle. Those actions must be done lawfully. It is unlawful to leave a firearm accessible to a minor under the age of 14 years. Firearms should be stored in a secure location, locked box/container, or inoperable with a trigger lock.

## DO I NEED A VALID FOID CARD FOR A MUZZLELOADER OR BLACKPOWDER GUN?

Yes. In Illinois, muzzleloaders and blackpowder guns are considered firearms.

## WHAT CONSTITUTES "UNLOADED" FOR A MUZZLELOADING FIREARM?

17 Ill. Admin. Code, Ch. 1, Sec. 660.30 (b)(5) provides a definition for an unloaded muzzleloading firearm as follows:

**"Removal of percussion cap or removal of prime powder from frizzen pan with frizzen pan open and hammer all the way down, or removal of prime powder from flashpan and wheel unwound, or removal of prime powder and match with match not lit shall constitute an unloaded muzzleloading firearm."**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Firearms Services Bureau at 217/782-7980

<http://www.isp.state.il.us>

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
217/782-6431

<http://www.dnr.state.il.us>

or e-mail: [askfoid@isp.state.il.us](mailto:askfoid@isp.state.il.us)



State of Illinois  
Illinois State Police

# Transport Your Firearm Legally

## Commonly Asked Questions On Transporting Firearms in Illinois



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Illinois State Police

**An Illinois resident who acquires or possesses firearms or firearm ammunition within the state must have in their possession a valid Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card issued in their name.**

*Answers provided to the following questions are meant only to give general guidance regarding transporting firearms and ammunition. The answers do not and are not meant to replace statutory language.*

### **WHERE CAN I OBTAIN A FOID APPLICATION?**

A FOID application can be downloaded from the Illinois State Police web site at [www.isp.state.il.us](http://www.isp.state.il.us) or may be obtained at most retail stores where firearms are sold. Non residents are not required to have an Illinois FOID Card. The FOID Card is NOT a conceal and carry permit.

### **I AM A NEW RESIDENT OF ILLINOIS. HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO OBTAIN A FOID CARD?**

Sixty calendar days after you obtain your Illinois driver's license or Illinois Identification Card.

### **HOW CAN I LEGALLY TRANSPORT A FIREARM ON MY PERSON OR IN MY SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE (SUV), PICKUP TRUCK, VAN, STATION WAGON, OR A MOTORCYCLE?**

Three statutory codes regulate the possession, transfer, and transportation of firearms - the Criminal Code, the Wildlife Code, and the Firearm Owner's Identification Act.

In order to comply with those statutes when transporting a firearm, it must be:

- 1. broken down in a non-functioning state; or**
- 2. not immediately accessible; or**
- 3. unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container by a person who has been issued a currently valid Firearm Owner's Identification Card.**

### **DOES A FIREARM HAVE TO BE BROKEN DOWN TO BE LEGAL?**

No. However, it is recommended that to transport a firearm, it be unloaded and encased and possessed by the holder of a valid FOID card.

### **WHAT IS BROKEN DOWN IN A NON-FUNCTIONING STATE?**

The firearm is disassembled, making it inoperable, e.g., slide or barrel removed.

### **WHAT CONSTITUTES A LEGAL "CASE" FOR TRANSPORTING A FIREARM?**

The Criminal Code refers to "a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container."

### **IF A NON-RESIDENT IS VISITING ILLINOIS, HUNTING, OR TRAVELING THROUGH WITH A FIREARM, HOW DO THEY LEGALLY TRANSPORT IT?**

Non-residents must be legally eligible to possess or acquire firearms and ammunition. Non residents are not required to have an Illinois FOID Card. It is recommended that in order to be in compliance with all statutes, non-residents transport all firearms:

1. broken down in a non-functioning state; or
2. not immediately accessible; or
3. unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container.

### **I HAVE A "CONCEAL AND CARRY" PERMIT ISSUED BY ANOTHER STATE. IS THIS PERMIT RECOGNIZED IN ILLINOIS?**

No. Illinois does not recognize "conceal and carry" permits from any state. Both non-residents and residents are subject to Illinois' law, restrictions, and penalties.

### **HOW DO I TRANSPORT A FIREARM THROUGH AN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY WITH AN ORDINANCE THAT PROHIBITS FIREARMS OR HANDGUNS?**

Illinois' Unlawful Use of Weapons law does not preempt local ordinances from banning firearms. Persons carrying or transporting firearms through such communities could be subject to local firearm ordinances. It is recommended that you contact local authorities regarding their firearm ordinances.

### **WHAT IF I LEAVE A FIREARM IN MY VEHICLE (REGARDLESS OF LOCATION) AND SOMEONE WITHOUT A FOID CARD IS DRIVING THE VEHICLE AND IS STOPPED BY POLICE AND THE FIREARM IS FOUND?**

The law states a person must "knowingly" violate the law. The assumption in the question is that the driver was unaware of a firearm's presence. However, at a traffic stop, you should expect the officer to handle the situation at face value, take enforcement action accordingly, and let the court settle the matter. *Don't put someone in that position.*

