

Open Carry is Legal in Louisiana



"The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged,..."
Article 1, Section 11,
La State Constitution.

The LOCAL Mission

The mission of the Louisiana Open Carry Awareness League (LOCAL) is to support, defend and promote the fact that open carry of firearms is a legal choice in Louisiana. We seek to accomplish this goal by educating the public about the legality of open carry in Louisiana through the existence of our website, producing and distributing literature, organizing open carry campaigns and events, and by actively petitioning our representatives and legislators.

Additionally, we seek to be a conduit for personal involvement by interested citizens to become active in their communities, as well as state level politics.

Learn more about LOCAL at:
www.laopencarry.org

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Find us on Facebook

Learn more about Open Carry in Louisiana by visiting our website and forum at:
<http://www.laopencarry.org>

Also research Open Carry at the following sites:

Louisiana Legislature webpage

Look up Revised Statutes and other laws:

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

Office of the La Attorney General

Look up AG opinions here:

<http://www.ag.state.la.us/index.aspx>

Municode

Database of local municipal codes:

<http://www.municode.com/>

Open Carry .org

A website and discussion forum dedicated to promoting the lawful Open Carrying of firearms:

<http://www.opencarry.org>

Disclaimer: AS ALWAYS, RESEARCH EVERYTHING FOR YOURSELF. Ask a lawyer. Nothing here should be considered as, nor is it intended to be, legal advice.

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The LA State Constitution - Article 1, Section 11 - "The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged, but this provision shall not prevent the passage of laws to prohibit the carrying of weapons concealed on the person."

State v. Fluker 311 So. 2d 863 - A 1975 State Supreme Court case regarding the determination of concealment of a firearm in LA. "...a weapon, although not in "full, open view," is nonetheless not a "concealed" weapon if it is sufficiently exposed to reveal its identity."

State v Ferrand 664 So.2d 396 - "As the officer acknowledged, the public possession of an openly displayed handgun is not a crime in Louisiana and does not alone provide probable cause for an arrest."

State v Snoddy 389 So.2d 377 - "The acts of defendant patrolling his property at night with a shotgun in a secluded area certainly did not constitute criminal activity." Cited in State v Ferrand. any private property that posts signs expressly forbidding the carrying of firearms are just a few examples.

Attorney General Opinion No. 97-485 – The AG says, "There is no Louisiana law which in general prohibits carrying a handgun if that handgun is not concealed."

Attorney General Opinion No. 79-1212 The AG answers, "It is the conclusion of this office that it is legal to carry a gun when it is exposed on one's person. The LOUISIANA Supreme Court has affirmed this conclusion. State v. Fluker, 311 So.2d 863 (1975). However, the legality of carrying even an exposed gun is subject to certain limitations of law." and "Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that a gun may be carried legally if it is in open view;..."

Attorney General Opinion No. 78-795 The AG responds, "the carrying of an exposed handgun is not illegal, except as provided in LSA R.S. 14:95.1."

Attorney General Opinion No. 78-1288 The AG states, "it is pertinent to observe that any citizen may bear arms that are not concealed." and, citing State vs. Fluker, says "that a weapon is not concealed, even if not in full, open view, if it is sufficiently exposed to reveal its identity."

Open Carry Frequently Asked Questions

What is Open Carry?

Open Carry (OC) is shorthand terminology for "openly carrying a firearm in plain sight", as distinguished from concealed carry, where firearms cannot be seen by the casual observer.

Do I need a permit to Open Carry like I do to Conceal Carry?

There is no permit required to Open Carry in Louisiana.

Do I give up my right to open carry if I get a concealed handgun permit?

NO! There is no basis for this in law.

Can I be charged with disturbing the peace for open carry?

Not legally. RS 14:103 is the LA statute regarding disturbing of the peace. OC does not meet the standards for Disturbing the Peace.

Can I Open Carry anywhere?

No! Some places are restricted by law. School zones (if you are not in your vehicle, or on private property), government (state and local) buildings, any place that sells alcohol for consumption on the premises and any private property that posts signs expressly forbidding the carrying of firearms are just a few examples