

# OPEN CARRY AND HANDGUN FAQs

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**Q:** *When does the Open Carry law go into effect?*

**A:** Beginning in January 2016, Texas will be the 45<sup>th</sup> state to allow the open carry of handguns.

**Q:** *Does Open Carry mean that a person no longer needs to have a state license to carry a handgun?*

**A:** NO. In order to openly carry a handgun a person **MUST** have a state Handgun License. The handgun must be in a shoulder or belt holster.

**Q:** *Can Handgun License holders enter City properties with their guns?*

**A:** YES. Handgun License holders can enter the public areas of City properties, walk along city streets and sidewalks, or any area that is open to any other member of the public. For instance, they can enter a public lobby or customer service area of a City building.

**Q:** *Can a Handgun License holder enter non-public or secure areas of City properties?*

**A:** NO. A Handgun License does not give a license holder any greater right of access to City property than any other member of the public.

**Q:** *Where can handguns be prohibited?*

**A:** A Handgun License holder can be prohibited from bringing a handgun into specified areas where a sign has been properly posted, including a room where a posted public meeting is being held, and into secure or non-public areas of City buildings. In addition, anyone with a firearm, including handgun license holders, are prohibited by state law from carrying any firearm into certain buildings (e.g. buildings where court proceedings are conducted, where school activities or sporting events are taking place), and from the secure areas of airports.

**Q:** *Does the Open Carry law affect carrying rifles or long guns?*

**A:** NO. The new laws do not change the carrying of rifles or long guns.

**Q:** *What should I do if I see a person with a handgun or long gun?*

**A:** If you feel that a person with a weapon is acting in a suspicious manner or causing a disturbance you should contact law enforcement.

