



Taunton Police Department Firearms Applications Guide

This guide has been completed to assist individuals applying for firearms licenses or renewals. Looking at applications over time we have identified certain questions that we feel applicants may need assistance in answering. Hopefully this guide will assist you in completing your application. If after reading the guide you still have questions, feel free to contact the Licensing Division at (508) 821-1471, extension 123.

Demographic Information

This information is very important. All fields require an entry. Failure to fully complete this section will result in a delay in processing your application.

LAST NAME: Your current, legal last name. If you have a suffix such as Jr. or the III, please annotate such.

MIDDLE NAME: Your full middle name, not just your middle initial. If you have no middle name, indicate NMI (No Middle Initial).

IF CLUB LICENSE (Old Form): Do not enter any information here. This space is used by a club seeking a special club license. It is not asking whether you belong to a gun club.

PLACE OF BIRTH: City and State. If you were born outside the United States indicate the city and country.

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: Enter your mother's full maiden name, not just her last name.

FATHER'S FULL NAME: Enter your father's full name.

BUILD: There are three options. Large, Medium or Small. Choose one.

COMPLEXION: The state lists thirteen options. They are: Albino, Black, Dark, Dark Brown, Fair, Light, Light Brown, Medium, Medium Brown, Olive, Ruddy, Sallow, and Yellow. Pick the one most appropriate for your skin tone. If you are a new applicant, enter your race as well. This is required for the fingerprint card. Renewals are not required to enter race information if they were previously fingerprinted as part of the application process.

HAIR COLOR: Once again the state has provided a series of options: Bald, Black, Blonde, Blue, Brown, Gray or partially gray, Green, Orange, Pink, Purple, Red, Sandy, or White. Select a color from the list.

EYE COLOR: Choices are: Black, Blue, Brown, Gray, Green, Hazel, Maroon, Multicolored, and Pink.

EMPLOYED BY: Regardless of the type of license you are applying for, your employer's information is still required as part of the application. If you are unemployed, self-employed or at home, put that down.

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One of the biggest problems we face in processing firearms license applications is the failure of applicant to fully answer questions 1 through 14. These questions need to be answered thoroughly and accurately. As the warning on the application states, entering false information is a criminal offense. If you have any doubts whether to include something, include it and provide an explanation. Failure to fully answer a question may be perceived as an attempt to deceive the licensing authority. Whatever you do, do not lie on the application as it is a crime.

QUESTION 1: ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES? Your answer will be either yes or no. If you are naturalized, enter the date you were naturalized, the city and state where you were naturalized, and the naturalization number.

QUESTION 2: HAVE YOU EVER USED OR BEEN KNOWN BY ANOTHER NAME? The largest problem that we have encountered here are married women who fail to list their maiden name or a name from a previous marriage. Maiden names and names from previous marriages need to be listed. Likewise, if you were adopted and your name was changed, or you had a legal name change through the courts, we need that information. If you adopted the use of a different name on your own, list it here.

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QUESTION 4? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY? A felony is defined by statute as a crime punishable by death or imprisonment in a state prison. If you do not know if you have been convicted of a felony, look at the charge and asked whether there was a possible state prison sentence. It does not matter whether you were sent to prison, but whether the possible punishment could have been state prison time. If the crime has a potential state prison sentence, then it is a felony.

QUESTION 5? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF THE UNLAWFUL USE, POSSESSION, OR SALE OF NARCOTIC OR HARMFUL DRUGS AS DEFINED IN M.G.L. c.94C,§1? This question is asking whether you have been convicted of a drug offense. This would include possession of marijuana.

QUESTION 6? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY INCARCERATION BY MORE THAN (1) ONE YEAR? As with the previous question concerning felonies, this question is asking you to look at the offense and determine whether the maximum punishment exceeded one year in jail.

QUESTION 7: This question is asking whether you convicted as either an adult or a juvenile in any state or in federal court for any of the offenses listed. (a) The definition of felony was provided in Question 4. (b) A misdemeanor is a crime that is not a felony. So if a crime has a potential punishment in the House of Correction, but not state prison, then it is a misdemeanor. If the potential penalty for the offense was more than two years in the House of Correction, then you need to answer yes. (c) A violent crime is defined as any “crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, or any act of juvenile delinquency involving the use or possession of a deadly weapon that would be punishable by imprisonment for such term if committed by an adult, that: (i) has as an element the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force or a deadly weapon against the person of another; (ii) is burglary, extortion, arson or kidnapping; (iii) involves the use of explosives; or (iv) otherwise involves conduct that presents a serious risk of physical injury to another.” (d) These are crimes in which a person is charged with illegally having a firearm or ammunition. (e) These would be drug offenses discussed previously.

QUESTION 10: HAVE YOU EVER APPEARED IN ANY COURT AS A DEFENDANT FOR ANY CRIMINAL OFFENSE (EXCLUDING NON-CRIMINAL TRAFFIC OFFENSES)?

This is the question that trips up applicants. If you have ever been to court as a defendant in a criminal matter, you need to answer yes. It does not matter if the case was dismissed, whether you were found not guilty or whether the record was sealed. Even if the judge told you that it would never show up on your record, it needs to be reported. This includes juvenile offenses. If you were ever a defendant in a criminal matter, it will show up on our records check. The offense involved may not disqualify you from getting a license. Failure to list the offense is grounds for denial. If you have any doubt, list it.

Sign the back of the application and return it to the records section of the police department on Tuesday or Thursday between 9 a.m and 4 p.m. When you bring your application in, you will need to bring your application fee. The application fee is non-refundable. An appointment will be set up for you to come in and be photographed, fingerprinted and interviewed. The only thing you will need for the appointment is positive identification.