

Questions About Turning In Firearms and Ammunition

This information will answer your questions about turning in firearms.
If you have other questions, call your local police department. (See back.)

What is a firearm?

Firearms include:

- handguns and pistols,
- rifles and shotguns,
- black powder firearms and muzzle-loading firearms,
- assault weapons, and
- *any* weapon that sends a projectile through a barrel and the weapon's frame or receiver.

How do I turn in my firearms and ammunition?

You have 2 options:

- You can call your local police department or the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and ask for instructions, or
- You can sell them to a *federally licensed* gun dealer. Look in the Yellow Pages or online under "Firearms Dealers."

How long do I have to turn in my firearms and ammunition?

If the court ordered you to "relinquish" your firearms and ammunition, you only have **24 hours**.

What if I was ordered to turn in firearms and ammunition on a weekend, can I get more than 24 hours?

No. You only have 24 hours. Law enforcement is available 24/7. See the instructions on the back.

Can I turn in my firearms and ammunition now, and sell them later?

Yes. You must ask a federally licensed gun dealer to contact the law enforcement agency where you left the firearms and ammunition. When the gun dealer gives the law enforcement agency an appropriate bill of sale, law enforcement will turn them over to the gun dealer.
(To Client: Pls confirm this is the correct process)

What happens if my firearms have not been registered?

It depends. Not all firearms have to be registered. But, if you did not register a weapon that had to be registered, you may have committed a crime. Talk to a lawyer as soon as possible.

How long will law enforcement keep my firearms and ammunition?

Usually they keep the firearms and ammunition until your restraining or protective order ends. If they cannot keep them for the whole period, they will let you know in writing so you can make other arrangements.

Do I have to pay law enforcement to keep my firearms and ammunition?

Maybe. Each agency has its own policy. They will tell you about any fees when you turn them in. They will also let you know in writing if their fees change.

Can a law enforcement officer take my firearms and ammunition from me?

Yes. If you are involved in domestic violence, the officer can take away your firearms and ammunition. (*Calif. Penal Code, § 6389(c)(2)*)

Can I get my firearms back from law enforcement after the court order ends?

Yes, *if* you are legally allowed to have a firearm. Fill out a Law Enforcement Gun Release (LEGR) Application and send it to the California Department of Justice. You can get the application at: <http://ag.ca.gov/firearms/forms>. You will also have to pay a fee (\$20 for the first firearm and \$3 for each additional firearm).

The Department of Justice will send you a notice within 4-6 weeks to tell you if you are eligible to possess a weapon again. If you are eligible, take that notice to the law enforcement agency where your firearm(s) and ammunition are stored within 30 days of the date on the notice. If you wait more than 30 days, you will have to submit another application.

Where can I get more information?

You can:

- Call your local law enforcement agency, or
- Read the law (*Calif. Penal Code §§ 12001 and 6389*).