CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF FIREARMS
FIREARMS PROHIBITING CATEGORIES

Persons who fall into the following categories are prohibited from owning and/or possessing firearms under California and/or federal law for the time periods described below. Please note that the Department of Justice provides this document for informational purposes only. This list may not be inclusive of all firearm prohibitions. For specific legal advice, please consult with an attorney.

Lifetime Prohibitions

Convictions

- Any person who has been convicted of, or has an outstanding warrant and knowledge of the same for, a felony under the laws of the United States, the State of California, or any other state, government, or country. (Cal. Penal Code § 29800(a)(1), (a)(3); 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).)
- Any person who has been convicted of a "violent offense" listed in California Penal Code section 29905. (Cal. Penal Code § 29900(a)(1).)
- Any person with two or more convictions for exhibiting any firearm in a rude, angry, or threatening manner in the presence of another person, except in self-defense, in violation of Penal Code section 417, subdivision (a)(2). (Cal. Penal Code § 29800(a)(2).)
- Any person convicted of a misdemeanor violation of the following offenses:
    - Assault with a firearm. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 29800(a)(1), 23515(a), 245(a)(2).)
    - Assault with a machinegun, assault weapon, or .50 BMG rifle. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 29800(a)(1), 23515(a), 245(a)(3).)
    - Shooting at an inhabited dwelling house, housecar, or camper, or at an occupied building, vehicle, or aircraft. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 29800(a)(1), 23515(b), 246.)
    - Exhibiting any firearm in a rude, angry, or threatening manner in the presence of a peace officer. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 29800(a)(1), 23515(d), 417(c).)
    - Inflicting corporal injury on a spouse or significant other under California Penal Code section 273.5, if convicted on or after January 1, 2019. (Cal. Penal Code § 29805(b).)
- Any person who has been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(9).)

Mental Health

- Any person who is found by a court of any state to be a danger to others because of a mental disorder or mental illness. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(a).)
- Any person who is found by a court of any state to be a mentally disordered sex offender. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103 (a).)
- Any person who is found by a state or federal court to be not guilty by reason of insanity. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103 (b), (c).)
- Any person who is found by a state or federal court to be mentally incompetent to stand trial. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(d).)
- Any person who, within one year, is taken into custody two or more times as a danger to self or others under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150 and assessed and admitted to a mental health facility. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(f)(1)(B).)
- Any person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective or who has been committed to a mental institution. (18 U.S. C. § 922(g)(4); 27 C.F.R § 478.11 (defining "adjudicated as a mental defective" and "committed to a mental institution").)

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Miscellaneous

- Any person who is a fugitive from justice. (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(2).)
- Any person who is an alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States, or admitted to the United States under a nonimmigrant visa (subject to certain exceptions). (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(5).)
- Any person who has been discharged from the military under dishonorable conditions. (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(6).)
- Any person who has renounced their United States citizenship. (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(7).)

10-Year Prohibitions

When a person has been convicted of, or has an outstanding warrant and knowledge of the same for, a misdemeanor violation of any of the offenses listed below (Cal. Penal Code § 29805(a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h)):

- Threatening public officers, employees, and school officials. (Cal. Penal Code § 71.)
- Threatening certain public officers, appointees, judges, staff or their families with the intent and apparent ability to carry out the threat. (Cal. Penal Code § 76.)
- Intimidating witnesses or victims. (Cal. Penal Code § 136.1.)
- Possessing a deadly weapon with the intent to intimidate a witness or victim. (Cal. Penal Code § 136.5.)
- Using force or threatening to use force against a witness, victim, or informant. (Cal. Penal Code § 140.)
- Attempting to remove or take a firearm from the person or immediate presence of a public or peace officer. (Cal. Penal Code § 148(d).)
- Knowingly making a false report to a peace officer that a firearm has been lost or stolen. (Cal. Penal Code § 148.5(f).)
- Unauthorized possession of a weapon in a courtroom, courthouse, or court building, or at a public meeting. (Cal. Penal Code § 171b.)
- Bringing into or possessing a loaded firearm within the State Capitol, any legislative office, any legislative hearing room, or any office of the Governor or any other constitutional officer. (Cal. Penal Code § 171c(a)(1).)
- Bringing onto the grounds a loaded firearm, or possessing a loaded firearm within, the Governor's Mansion or residence of any other constitutional officer. (Cal. Penal Code § 171d.)
- Knowingly supplying, selling, or giving possession of a firearm to a person to commit a felony while actively participating in a criminal street gang. (Cal. Penal Code § 186.28.)
- Assault. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 240, 241.)
- Battery. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 242, 243.)
- Sexual Battery. (Cal. Penal Code § 243.4.)
- Assault with a stun gun or taser weapon. (Cal. Penal Code § 244.5.)
- Assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm, or assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury. (Cal. Penal Code § 245(a)(1), (4).)
- When the victim is a school employee engaged in performance of duties, assault with a firearm, assault with a deadly weapon or instrument, assault by any means likely to produce great bodily injury, or assault with a stun gun or taser. (Cal. Penal Code § 245.5.)
- Discharging a firearm or BB gun in a grossly negligent manner. (Cal. Penal Code § 246.3.)
- Shooting at an unoccupied aircraft or motor vehicle, or at an uninhabited building or dwelling house. (Cal. Penal Code § 247.)

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- Inflicting corporal injury on a spouse or significant other, if convicted before January 1, 2019. (Cal. Penal Code § 273.5.)
- Intentionally and knowingly violating a protective or restraining order. (Cal. Penal Code § 273.6.)
- Exhibiting any deadly weapon or firearm in a rude, angry, or threatening manner in the presence of another person, except in self-defense. (Cal. Penal Code § 417.)
- Intentionally inflicting serious bodily injury as a result of exhibiting a deadly weapon or firearm in the presence of another person. (Cal. Penal Code § 417.6.)
- Making threats to commit a crime which will result in death of, or great bodily injury to, another person. (Cal. Penal Code § 422.)
- Interference with the exercise of civil rights because of actual or perceived characteristics of the victim. (Cal. Penal Code § 422.6.)
- Possessing a firearm in a place the person knows or reasonably should know is a school zone. (Cal. Penal Code § 626.9.)
- Stalking. (Cal. Penal Code § 646.9.)
- Wearing a peace officer uniform while engaged in picketing or other public informational activities relating to a concerted refusal to work. (Cal. Penal Code § 830.95.)
- Possessing a deadly weapon with the intent to commit an assault. (Cal. Penal Code § 17500.)
- Carrying a concealed firearm, loaded firearm, or other deadly weapon while engaged in picketing or other public informational activities relating to a concerted refusal to work. (Cal. Penal Code § 17510.)
- Carrying a firearm in a public place or on a public street while masked. (Cal. Penal Code § 25300.)
- Carrying a loaded firearm with the intent to commit a felony. (Cal. Penal Code § 25800.)
- Possession of handgun ammunition designed primarily to penetrate metal or armor. (Cal. Penal Code § 30315.)
- Unauthorized possession or knowingly transporting a machinegun. (Cal. Penal Code § 32625.)
- As the driver or owner of any vehicle, knowingly permitting another person to discharge a firearm from the vehicle, or any person who willfully and maliciously discharges a firearm from a motor vehicle. (Cal. Penal Code § 26100(b), (d).)
- A firearms dealer who sells, transfers, or gives possession of a handgun, semiautomatic centerfire rifle, completed frame or receiver, or firearm precursor part to a person under 21 years of age, when no exception applies. (Cal. Penal Code § 27510.)
- Purchase, possession, or receipt of a firearm or deadly weapon by a person receiving in-patient treatment for a mental disorder while a danger to self or others, or by a person who has communicated to a licensed psychotherapist a serious threat of physical violence against an identifiable victim. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 8100.)
- Knowingly providing a deadly weapon or firearm to a person described in Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8100 or 8103. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8101.)
- Purchase, possession, or receipt of a firearm or deadly weapon by a person who has been found by a court to be a danger to others because of a mental disorder or mental illness, to be a mentally disordered sex offender, to be not guilty by reason of insanity, or to be mentally incompetent to stand trial. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(a), (b), (c), (d).)
- Purchase, possession, or receipt of a firearm by a person placed under a conservatorship for specified reasons, by a person taken into custody as a danger to self or others under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150 and assessed and admitted to a mental health facility, or by a person certified for intensive treatment under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5250, 5260, or 5270.15. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(e), (f)(1)(A), (g).)
- Knowingly bringing a firearm into, or knowingly possessing a firearm in, a juvenile facility. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 871.5.)

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- Knowingly bringing a firearm into, or knowingly possessing a firearm in, a Youth Authority institution or camp. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 1001.5.)
- Grand theft of a firearm. (Cal. Penal Code § 487.)
- Various violations involving sales and transfers of firearms. (Cal. Penal Code § 27590(c).)
- Storing a firearm knowing that a child or person prohibited from possessing firearms is likely to gain access to the firearm, if convicted on or after January 1, 2020. (Cal. Penal Code § 25100.)
- While residing with a person prohibited from possessing firearms, failing to keep the firearm secure in the residence in one of the specified manners, if convicted on or after January 1, 2020. (Cal. Penal Code § 25135.)
- Storing a firearm knowing that a child or person prohibited from possessing firearms is likely to gain access to the firearm, and the child or prohibited person accesses the firearm and carries it off-premises, if convicted on or after January 1, 2020. (Cal. Penal Code § 25200.)
- Willfully harming, injuring, or endangering the health of a child, if convicted on or after January 1, 2023. (Cal. Penal Code § 273a.)
- Willfully harming, injuring, or endangering the health of an elder or dependent adult, or falsely imprisoning an elder or dependent adult, if convicted on or after January 1, 2023. (Cal. Penal Code § 368(b), (c).)
- Knowingly helping a person prohibited from possessing firearms to manufacture a firearm, or knowingly manufacturing a firearm without a valid state or federal serial number, if convicted on or after January 1, 2023. (Cal. Penal Code § 29180(e), (f).)
- Illegally carrying a concealed firearm or a loaded firearm in public when certain conditions are met, if convicted on or after January 1, 2024. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 25400(a), (c)(5) - (7), 25850(a), (c)(5) - (7).)
- Illegally carrying an unloaded firearm in public, if convicted on or after January 1, 2024. (Cal. Penal Code §§ 26350(a), 26400(a).)
- Having a prior conviction for a misdemeanor violation of Penal Code section 29805, if convicted on or after January 1, 2024. (Cal. Penal Code § 29805(f).)
- Maliciously and intentionally maiming, torturing, or wounding a living animal, or maliciously and intentionally killing and animal, if convicted on or after January 1, 2025. (Cal. Penal Code § 597 (a).)
- Manufacturing, importing into the state, keeping for sale, offering or exposing for sale, giving, lending, or possessing an undetectable firearm, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal Penal Code § 24610.)
- Selling or transferring ownership of a firearm that is not imprinted with a serial number by a federal licensee, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 27530.)
- Illegally using a computer numerical control milling machine or a three-dimensional printer to manufacture a firearm, or illegally selling or purchasing computer numerical control milling machine or a three-dimensional printer that has the sole or primary function of manufacturing firearms, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 29185.)
- Knowingly or willfully causing another to engage in unlawful manufacture of firearms, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 29186.)
- Illegal possession of an assault weapon, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 30605.)
- Illegal possession of a .50 BMG Rifle, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 30610.)
- Manufacturing or causing to be manufactured, importing into the state, keeping for sale, offering or exposing for sale, giving, lending, or possessing any multiburst trigger activator, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 32900.)

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- Manufacturing or causing to be manufactured, importing into the state, keeping for sale, offering or exposing for sale, giving, lending, or possessing any short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 33215.)
- Manufacturing or causing to be manufactured, importing into the state, keeping for sale, offering or exposing for sale, giving, lending, or possessing any zip gun, if convicted on or after January 1, 2026. (Cal. Penal Code § 33600.)

Juvenile Prohibitions

- Until 30 years of age or older, any person who is adjudged a ward of the juvenile court under Welfare and Institutions Code section 602 because the person committed an offense listed below (Cal. Penal Code § 29820):
    - An offense listed in Welfare and Institutions Code section 707(b);
    - An offense listed in Penal Code section 29805;
    - A controlled substance offense listed in paragraphs (B), (C), (D), (E), or (F) of Penal Code section 29820(a)(1);
    - Carrying a loaded firearm in public under Penal Code section 25850;
    - Carrying a concealed firearm under Penal Code section 25400(a); or
    - As the driver or owner of a motor vehicle, knowingly permitting another person to bring a firearm into the vehicle, under Penal Code section 26100(a).

Non-Lifetime Mental Health Prohibitions

- For the period of admittance until discharge from a mental health facility, any person who is receiving in-patient treatment at a mental health facility for a mental disorder and is a danger to self or others. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8100(a).)
- For the period of the conservatorship, any person who is placed under a conservatorship by a state or federal court because he or she is gravely disabled from a mental disorder or chronic alcoholism and the court finds that possession of a firearm would endanger the person or others. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(e).)
- For a period of 5 years from the date that a licensed psychotherapist reports to a local law enforcement agency, any person who communicates a serious threat of physical violence to a licensed psychotherapist against a reasonably identifiable victim and the psychotherapist reports the threat to law enforcement. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8100(b).)
- For a period of 5 years after being released from a mental health facility, any person who is taken into custody as a danger to self or others under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150, assessed, and admitted to a mental health facility. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(f).)
- For a period of 5 years, any person certified for intensive treatment under Welfare and Institutions Code sections 5250, 5260, or 5270.15. (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(g).)
- On or after July 1, 2024, any person who has been granted pretrial mental health diversion under Penal Code section 1001.36 and found by a court to be prohibited from owning or controlling a firearm because they are a danger to themselves or others under Penal Code section 1001.36(m), until successful completion of the pretrial mental health diversion or the restoration of firearm rights under Welfare and Institutions Code section 8103(g)(4). (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(i).)
- On or after July 1, 2024, any person who has been granted pretrial mental health diversion under Penal Code section 1001.80 and found by a court to be prohibited from owning or controlling a firearm because they are a danger to themselves or others under Penal Code section 1001.80(p), until successful completion of the pretrial mental health diversion or the restoration of firearm rights under Welfare and Institutions Code section 8103(g)(4). (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 8103(i).)

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Non-Lifetime Court-Ordered Prohibitions

- For the period of probation, any person who is ordered to not possess firearms as a condition of probation. (Cal. Penal Code § 29815.)
- For the period that the court order is in effect, any person who is subject to one of the following court protection or restraining orders (Cal. Penal Code §§ 18120, 29825; Cal. Family Code § 6389):
    - A protective order under Family Code section 6218, including a Domestic Violence Restraining Order, Juvenile Restraining Order, or Emergency Protective Order;
    - An Emergency Protective Order against stalking under Penal Code Section 646.91;
    - A Civil Harassment Restraining Order under Code of Civil Procedure section 527.6;
    - A Workplace Violence Restraining Order under Code of Civil Procedure section 527.8;
    - A Postsecondary School Violence Restraining Order under Code of Civil Procedure section 527.85;
    - A Criminal Protective Order under Penal Code sections 136.2, 273.5(j), 368(l), 646.9(k), 646.91, or 1203.097 (a)(2);
    - An Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse restraining order under Welfare and Institutions Code section 15657.03; unless the order was made based on financial abuse only;
    - A Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) under section 18100, et seq. of the Penal Code, including a Gun Violence Emergency Protective Order under section 18125;
    - A valid order issued by an out-of-state jurisdiction that is similar or equivalent to one of the court protection or restraining orders described above and includes a prohibition on owning or possessing a firearm (Cal. Penal Code §§ 18205(b), 29825).
- For a period of 5 years after an existing GVRO expires, any person convicted of unlawfully possessing a firearm or ammunition in violation of a Gun Violence Restraining Order. (Cal. Penal Code § 18205.)
- Any person who is subject to a court order that meets certain requirements and restrains the person from harassing threatening, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner or child. (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8).)

Miscellaneous Prohibitions

- Any person who is addicted to the use of any narcotic drug. (Cal. Penal Code § 29800(a)(1).)
- Any person who is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance. (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3).)