

A Guide to Obtaining the Maryland Handgun Qualification License

(information provided by IA Fingerprinting)

Unless otherwise exempt, as of October 1, 2013, a Maryland resident must possess a valid Handgun Qualification License before he/she may purchase, rent, or receive a handgun. Details on exemptions may be found below.

You do not need a Handgun Qualification License to own a gun you already have. The Handgun Qualification License is only needed for purchasing, transferring, or renting a regulated firearm after October 1, 2013.

Please go to http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/chapters_noln/Ch_427_sb0281E.pdf in order to view the full text of the Law

Who Should Apply?

A person may not purchase, rent, or receive a handgun after October 1, 2013 unless they possess a valid Handgun Qualification License (HQL) issued by the Maryland State Police or qualify for exemption status.

Exceptions to possession of the HQL License:

1. A Licensed Firearms Manufacturer.
2. Active law enforcement officer or a person retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State, or a local law enforcement agency of the State.
3. Active or retired member of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard and possesses a valid military identification card.
4. A person purchasing, renting or receiving an antique, curio or relic as defined in federal law.
5. Maryland licensed firearms dealers.

Required to have the HQL, but exempt from the training component:

1. Someone who completed a firearms safety training course approved by the Secretary of the Department of Maryland State Police.
2. Has completed a course of instruction in the competency and safety of firearms as prescribed under
3. Active or retired member of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard and possesses a valid military identification card.
4. A person purchasing, renting or receiving an antique, curio or relic as defined in federal law.
5. Maryland licensed firearms dealers.

Required to have the HQL, but exempt from the training component:

- 1.** Someone who completed a firearms safety training course approved by the Secretary of the Department of Maryland State Police.
- 2.** Has completed a course of instruction in the competency and safety of firearms as prescribed under Natural Resources Article, §10-301.1, Annotated Code of Maryland. Application for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Hunter Safety Course Certificate can be obtained from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) www.hunter-ed.com/maryland/ may be used in lieu of Qualified Handgun Instruction.
- 3.** Is currently a qualified handgun instructor.
- 4.** Is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States or National Guard.
- 5.** Is an employee of an armored car company who has a handgun permit issued by MSP.
- 6.** Lawfully owns a regulated firearm. If you already own a handgun or assault weapon prior to October 1, 2013, you do not have to complete the training to apply for the Handgun Qualification License.

How to Apply

The Handgun Qualification License is accessible online the Maryland State Police portal. For access please use the following website <https://emdsp.mdsp.org/egov/Login.aspx>, or the link located on the 1A Fingerprinting website.

Within 2 years prior to the submission of an HQL application, an applicant must demonstrate a satisfactory completion of a Firearms Safety Training Course.

To apply for an HQL the law requires a fingerprint-based background, you cannot submit your application until this is completed, unless you already possess a Maryland Wear and Carry Permit. To receive your live scan fingerprints please visit **1A FINGERPRINTING** located at **4367 Hollins Ferry Road, Ste 3A Halethorpe, MD 21227** or call **443-297-0351** for more information. You may also visit our website at www.1afingerprinting.com

ONLINE YOU WILL USE THE TRACKING NUMBER LISTED ON YOUR LIVESCAN FINGERPRINTING RECEIPT, THIS NUMBER STARTS WITH 206823*****

FINGERPRINTS ARE ONLY GOOD FOR 30 DAYS, YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR ONLINE REGISTRATION WITH THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE BEFORE THEY EXPIRE.