

EXCEPTIONS

Open carry is not permitted by a license holder regardless of whether the handgun is holstered:

- ➔ On the physical premises of a school or educational institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school or educational institution, whether the school or educational institution is public or private, unless pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the institution.
- ➔ By an individual who is acting as a personal protection officer under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code and is not wearing a uniform.



Sheriff Ron Hickman



1200 Baker St. Houston, TX 77002

Public information: 713-755-5600

Non-emergency: 713-221-6000

Administrative services: 713-755-6044



www.sheriff.hctx.net

OPEN CARRY GUN LAW

House Bill 910
Effective: January 1, 2016

OPEN CARRY LEGISLATION

In June, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed the open carry legislation into law. It will allow gun owners to openly carry handguns in a belt or shoulder holster only if they possess a carry license. The same restrictions on carrying a concealed handgun will also apply, preventing the open carry of handguns in places such as bars, large sporting events, on school grounds, or in courthouses. Private businesses that do not want gun owners carrying handguns inside of their establishments may post notice outside their establishments.

GENERAL INFORMATION

License To Carry (LTC) authorizes individuals to obtain a license to openly carry a handgun in the same places that allow the licensed carrying of a concealed handgun with some exceptions (See "EXCEPTIONS" on the back of this brochure for more information).

- Unconcealed handguns, loaded or unloaded, must be carried in a shoulder or belt holster.
- Individuals who hold a valid CHL may continue to carry with valid existing license.
- A separate license will not be required to open carry. No additional fee will be required.
- Individuals currently licensed will not be required to attend additional training. Training curriculum for new applicants will be updated to reflect the new training requirements related to the use of restraint holsters and methods to ensure the secure carrying of openly carried handguns. The new curriculum will be required for all classes beginning January 1, 2016.
- The eligibility criteria to obtain a license to carry will not change.
- The Harris County Sheriff's Office (**HCSO**) has updated its website, forms, and training materials to reference License To Carry (LTC) instead of Concealed Handgun License (CHL).
- Changes to the laminated license are being developed and will be implemented at a later date.



SIGNAGE

- Private businesses may post signs to indicate entry on the property with a handgun by a license holder is forbidden.
- Penal Code Section 30.06 provides the language to be included on signs to indicate license holders are forbidden to carry concealed.
- Penal Code Section 30.07 provides the language to be included on signs to indicate license holders are forbidden to open carry.
- Posting of both signs is an indication by the business that license holders are forbidden to carry concealed or openly.



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