

# Gun Laws in Minnesota

#14 in the country for gun law strength

Same rank as last year

Minnesota has had recent success in passing gun safety policies, including passing laws requiring background checks for all gun sales, an Extreme Risk law, and laws blocking access for domestic abusers under restraining orders. The state does have relatively low firearm violence, with one of the lowest rates of gun deaths in the country.

## *KEY METRICS*

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***Gun Law Strength - Composite score 55***

*Last year's score: 54*

***Gun Violence Rate - Gun deaths per 100k residents 9.8*** *National average: 12.8*

Source: <https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/state/minnesota/>  
**2026 Everytown Gun Law Rankings** *Last updated January 14, 2026*

# 2026 Gun Law Checklist

How Minnesota stacks up on 50 key policies

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## Minnesota Foundational Laws

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### **Background Check and/or Purchase Permit**

Requires Background checks for handgun purchases at point of sale and/or for permit to purchase ...

**Does the law cover only handgun purchases, or also rifle and shotgun purchases?** Handguns and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons

**When is the background check performed?** Permit to purchase or point-of-sale

### **Concealed Carry Permit Required**

Requires any person who carries a concealed firearm in public to first obtain a permit ...

**If so, does the state require training?** Yes

**Does state training include firing an actual gun?** Yes

### **Extreme Risk Law**

Allows law enforcement (and often family members) to petition for a court order to temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns. ...

**Who may petition for an order?** Law enforcement and family members

### **No Shoot First Law**

Does not have a dangerous Shoot First law in place ...

### **Secure Storage or Child Access Prevention Required**

Requires that firearms be stored locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition in certain circumstances ...

**When does the law apply?** When child may or is likely to access

**How does the state define child?** Under 18

**Does the state law require storage to prevent access by other prohibited people?** No

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## Minnesota Gun Industry and Product Safety

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### × Assault Weapons Prohibited

Bars purchase of certain assault-style weapons originally designed for military use ..

### Auto Sears/Glock Switches Prohibited

Prohibits devices that alter the trigger mechanisms of semi-automatic pistols and rifles and enable the guns to continuously fire rounds ...

### Bump Stocks Prohibited

Prohibits replacement shoulder stocks for semi-automatic rifles that harness the recoil from firing and allow a shooter to fire shots in rapid success

### × Consumer Safety

Requires new handgun models sold in the state to have childproofing features ...

### × Dealer License Required

Requires all gun dealers to obtain a state license

### × Ghost Guns Regulated

Regulates ghost gun parts, ensuring they cannot be sold without serial numbers and a background check ...

### × High Capacity Magazines Prohibited

Bars purchase of gun magazines larger than a prescribed size ...

### × Legal Accountability for Gun Industry

Allows lawsuits against manufactures and dealers whose bad conduct results in harm

### × Microstamping for New Handguns

Requires new handgun models sold in the state to include microstamping technology ...

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## Minnesota Guns in Public

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### **No Carry After Violent Offense**

Bars concealed carry by people with assault or other violent misdemeanor convictions ...

**How long is a person disqualified?** 3 years

### **No Guns Mandate on College Campuses**

Does not force colleges and universities to allow concealed carry ...

**If not, where and to whom does the mandate apply?** Permit holders must be allowed to carry on public campuses

### **No Guns at State Capitols and/or Demonstrations**

Blocks the public carry of guns on state capitol grounds and/or political protests

### **No Guns in Bars**

Blocks the concealed carry of guns in bars

### **No Guns in K-12 Schools**

Does not have a law allowing carry in K-12 schools by staff or other permit holders

### **Open Carry Regulated**

Regulates how guns may be carried visibly in public, either requiring a permit or else barring open carry altogether

**How is open carry regulated?** Permit required for all firearms.

### **Strong Concealed Carry Authority**

Allows officials to bar concealed carry by people who pose a danger

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## Minnesota Keeping Guns out of the Wrong Hands

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### × **Emergency Restraining Order Prohibitor**

Bars domestic abusers from having guns while subject to short-term emergency orders ...

### **Felony Prohibitor**

Bars gun possession by people with felony convictions ...

How long is a person prohibited by the state law? Indefinitely

### **Fugitive from Justice Prohibitor**

Bars gun possession by fugitives ...

Does the state prohibitor cover any people with outstanding warrants? No

### × **Gun Removal Program**

Requires officials to identify and seek removal of illegal guns ...

### **Hate Crime Prohibitor**

Bars people from having guns after a hate crime conviction ...

### **Mental Health Prohibitor**

Bars gun possession by people who have been involuntarily committed or found to be a danger to self or others ...

How long is a person prohibited by the state law? Indefinitely

### × **Minimum Age to Purchase**

Requires handgun buyers to be 21+ and rifle and shotgun buyers to be 18+ ...

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## Minnesota Keeping Guns out of the Wrong Hands

### **No Gun Purchases After Violent Offense**

Bars gun purchases by people with assault or other violent misdemeanor convictions ...

Does the prohibitor cover assault and battery crimes? No

How long is a person prohibited? 3 years

### **Prohibition for Convicted Domestic Abusers**

Bars domestic abusers from having guns after a misdemeanor conviction ...

Does the law close the boyfriend loophole by covering abusive dating partners? Yes

### **Prohibition for Domestic Abusers Under Restraining Orders**

Bars domestic abusers from having guns while subject to restraining orders ...

Does the law close the boyfriend loophole by covering abusive dating partners? Yes

### **Relinquishment for Convicted Domestic Abusers**

Requires domestic abusers to turn in guns after a misdemeanor conviction ...

Does the state bar the surrender of firearms to third parties? No

### **Relinquishment for Domestic Abusers Under Restraining Orders**

Requires domestic abusers to turn in guns when a restraining order is placed ...

Does the state bar the surrender of firearms to third parties? No

### **School Threat Assessment Teams**

Requires threat assessment programs to identify students at risk of violence ...

### **Stalker Prohibitor**

Bars gun possession by convicted stalkers ...

How long is a person prohibited by the state law? 3 years

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## Minnesota Policing and Civil Rights

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### ✗ Funding for Services for Victims of Gun Violence

Issues targeted solicitations to use federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds to assist victims of gun violence or for gun violence intervention ...

### ✗ Local Gun Laws Allowed

Does not preempt towns and cities from making their own gun safety policy ...

**If not, does the state also threaten to punish localities that regulate firearms?** No

### ✗ No Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights

Does not impede efforts to hold police accountable for excessive force and other misconduct ...

### ✗ Office of Violence Intervention

Has a dedicated office for gun violence prevention ...

### ✗ Police Use of Deadly Force Standard

Bars deadly force unless necessary to prevent serious bodily injury, does not make exception for felony suspects fleeing arrest ...

### ✗ Qualified Immunity Limited

Limits qualified immunity, a legal shield for police officers accused of civil and constitutional violations ...

### Tools to Address Crime Guns

Gives law enforcement tools designed to address crime guns ...

### Violence Intervention Program Funding

State budget includes funding for community violence intervention programming ...

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## Minnesota Sales and Permitting

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### **Authority to Deny Gun Purchase for Public Safety**

Allows officials to deny sales if buyer poses a danger ...

### **Charleston Loophole Closed or Limited**

Ensures gun sales can't proceed while a background check is still ongoing ...

#### **What does the state law require?**

Requires a 30-day waiting period for dealer sales of handguns and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons (can be waived after purchaser determined not to be prohibited); authorities also have 30 days to issue or deny an application for permits to purchase firearms.

### **Lost and Stolen Reporting**

Requires gun owners to notify law enforcement if their guns are lost or stolen ...

### **Mental Health Record Reporting**

Requires or allows officials to report prohibiting records into the background check system ...

**Are officials required to report, or merely allowed to do so?** Required

### **Sales Records Sent to Law Enforcement**

Requires all handgun sale information be recorded by officials ...

### **Training Required to Purchase Guns**

Requires certain gun buyers to take a training course before their purchase ...

### **Waiting Periods**

Requires gun buyers to wait a prescribed time before completing a purchase ...

# GUN

# VIOLENCE

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