

## Carrying a Weapon in Texas - 2012

By Johnny Kirby

A question that comes up on a regular basis is "When and how can I carry a gun in my vehicle?" The state of Texas has a sometimes confusing 80 page guide for people with a Concealed Handgun License (CHL), but nothing for folks without a concealed permit.

I made calls to the local police department, the DPS, and the Parks and Wildlife Enforcement Division and no one seems eager to answer my question.

One officer from the DPS told me to go online to the Texas penal code website and look under the heading: "weapons regulations". The list of restrictions for people who can't have weapons is very definite, but instructions for those of us who are allowed to carry weapons without a CHL is very vague at best, and apparently left up to the officer on the scene to make the final judgment.

According to the regulation, if you are on your own property or property with permission of the landowner, you are okay. Once you leave that property, the weapon must be concealed. You cannot have it on your person but are allowed to have it in your vehicle or boat as long as it is not in view.

The law says you are in compliance if you are "traveling". The problem here is that no one including the state of Texas has a definition for "traveling". I looked up court cases and judges decisions on "traveling" and found a wide variety of rulings.

One judge says crossing

county lines, another said 20 miles and another said if you are on a public road or highway you are "traveling".

I asked Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen how he handles this issue. His answers were clear and to the point. When you are on a public road or highway, he considers you to be "traveling". His instructions were to load weapons (without bullets, it's not much protection) and place them out of view in your glove compartment or console. If you choose to carry it in the side door of your vehicle, put it in a soft zip-up case or wrap it in a rag towel.

If you get stopped for any reason, don't be shy about telling the officer that you have a weapon and where it is, but don't reach for it to show him unless he asks you to. That would be a BIG NO-NO!!!

We are allowed to carry weapons for self-defense in our vehicles or boats if they are concealed. Please remember, these are Texas regulations and may not apply in other states.

### Hunter Ed now available on any device

Students who need to complete a hunter safety course to get their hunting license can now take the first step of that training on their smartphone, tablet or laptop at [www.hunter-ed.com](http://www.hunter-ed.com).

"Students expect to tackle a variety of tasks on their smartphones and tablets so it makes sense for hunter-ed.com to be mobile ready," said Edward Cossette, user



**Hogs are now part of our wildlife population!** Callie Smith, daughter of Luke and Cheryl Smith bagged a javelina on her hunting trip with her dad! Callie is the granddaughter of Clyde and Jo Frances (Box) Smith of Santa Fe, Texas.

experience manager for Kalkomey, parent company of hunter-ed.com. "The pages at hunter-ed.com automatically resize according to the device used, from a smartphone to Internet TV. There's no app to download and each page is easy to view and read."

Another benefit of hunter-ed.com being available on any device is students can access the course on the Web even if the only way they have to connect to the Internet is via their smartphone.

The training at hunter-ed.com is state-approved and covers the same material

that's taught in the classroom. The new mobile-ready site features realistic illustrations and interactive animations. An optional narration feature is available in many states, allowing students to hear the course in English and Spanish.

Hunter-ed.com also has introduced a series of hunter safety videos. The new videos cover topics such as tree stand hunting safety, firearms safety, hunting from a ground blind, effectiveness of blaze orange and more.

Studying at hunter-ed.com is free. Students who must be

certified before buying a hunting license pay a one-time fee, which is due only if they pass the test. Online hunter safety courses are available in participating states, so visit hunter-ed.com for a state-specific course.

Several states require students to pass an online course and a field day to complete all hunter education requirements. Students can register for a field day or classroom course at [www.register-ed.com](http://www.register-ed.com) in participating states. At register-ed.com, students can use their smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop to sign up for field days and courses.

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