



Vermont’s Firearm Storage Law: Summary

Modeled after firearms storage processes in other states, 20 V.S.A. § 2307 sets up a statutory process for storage of firearms ordered to be relinquished under protection orders. The new law authorizes storage by law enforcement agencies and federally licensed firearms dealers (FFLs) and allows them to collect a fee to cover the cost of the space and security measures. Third parties may be used unless the court finds that this option will not adequately protect the victim’s safety.

- Third parties who offer to store surrendered firearms must be approved by the court and must sign an affidavit stating that they acknowledge receipt of the weapons, assume responsibility for them and stating how they will keep them secure, swearing that they are not themselves prohibited from possessing firearms, and stating that they understand their obligations and requirements under the court order.
- If a third party allows the defendant or any prohibited person to access the weapons, then they can be held in civil contempt of court, which can range from fines to imprisonment.
- A person or entity storing firearms may only release them back to the defendant with a court order.
- If a defendant doesn’t pay the associated fees then law enforcement and FFLs can sell the weapons after notifying the defendant; proceeds from sales will cover costs of storage and any remaining proceeds go back to defendant.

Effective Date: July 1, 2014

Vermont’s Firearm Storage Law: FAQs

Q: What is required by statute re: retrieval and storage?

A: See statute: 20 V.S.A. § 2307 here: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/20/145/02307>

Also see Vermont State Police guidelines at this link: <http://vsp.vermont.gov/firearmstorage>

Q: How do I find a proper storage facility?

A: There is a list on the State Police website above. There are 11 of them certified thru 2017, all Statewide except one (Richmond Police Dept)

Q: What are the storage expectations if there is no facility nearby?

A: This is not answered by the guidelines above, but the local department would store temporarily until transport can be arranged. The guide does say: Firearms are to be turned over to a cooperating LE agency which means one that has been approved by State Police. If the firearm is at location where the relief from abuse order is served, it should be turned over to the LE agency. NOTE: The LE agency can collect fee for storage once the order is final and if the storing agency is approved by DPS for storage.



Q: What financial assistance is available to make sure firearms are stored?

A: There is a revolving loan fund for creating storage facilities for law enforcement departments.

Q: How does my law enforcement agency or Federal Firearms Dealership become a certified storage facility?

A: Complete this form and return to Vermont Dept. of Public Safety – and see guide above for more information:

<http://vsp.vermont.gov/sites/vsp/files/Firearms%20Storage%20Compliance%20form%20Final.pdf>

What is the procedure for logging and storing on-site?

A: In the guide, at link above.

Q: What is the procedure for returning firearms to owners?

A: There is a form on the court website. Here is the form that a respondent would file to have firearms returned: <https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/eforms/Form%20152B.pdf>

This is laid out in statute 20 V.S.A. § 2307 and outlined in the guide at link above.

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