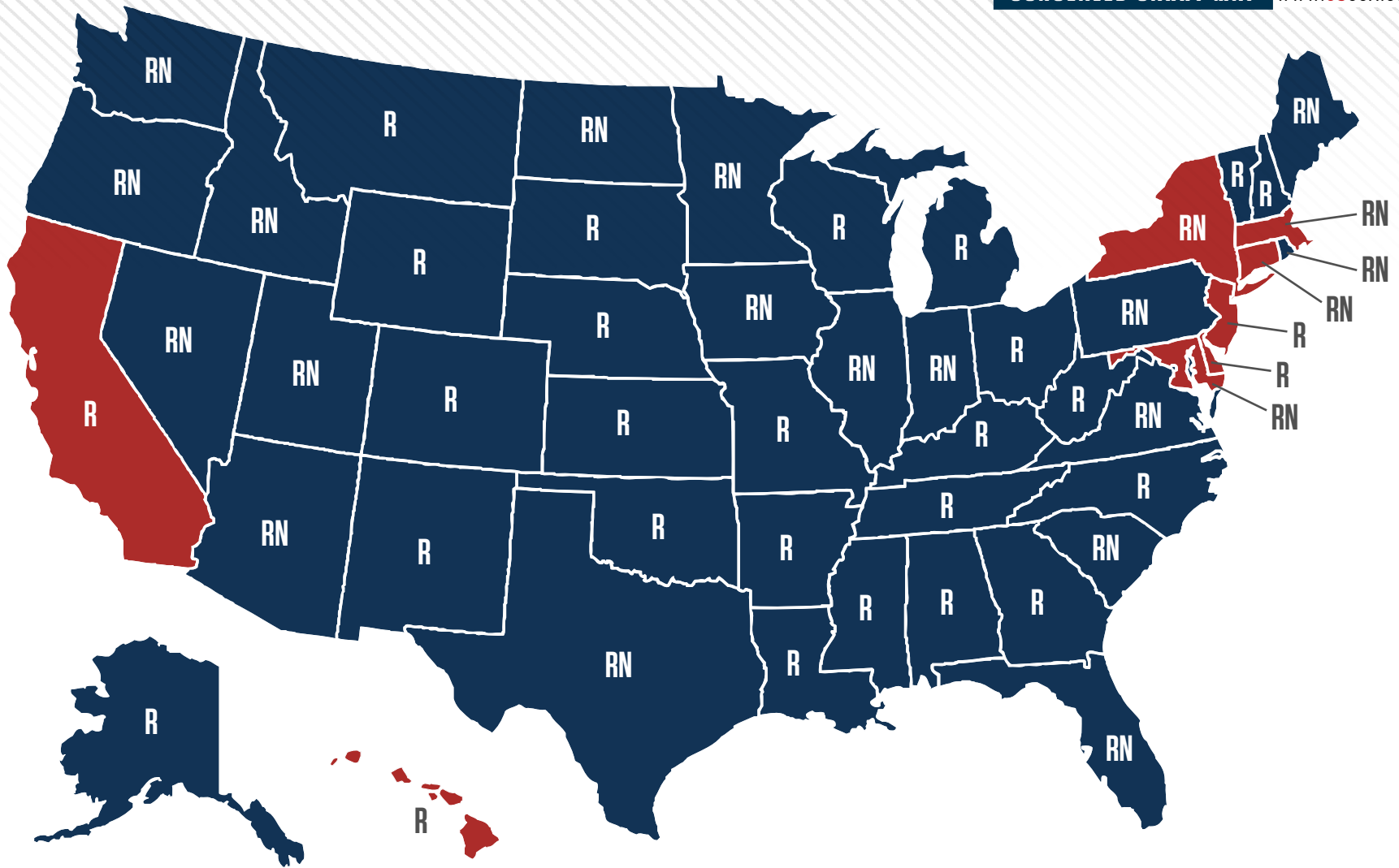


CONCEALED CARRY MAP



KNOW YOUR STATE'S RIGHTS



CONCEALED CARRY MAP



	Shall Issue
	May Issue
R	Resident Only
RN	Resident & Non-Resident

Click On Your State For More Info



- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

■ Shall Issue

States that require a license or permit to carry concealed. No bias allowed.

■ May Issue

States that require a license or permit to carry concealed. Discretion of local authorities.

R Resident Only

You have to be a resident of the state in order to obtain a concealed carry permit.

RN Resident + Non-Resident

Concealed carry permits can be awarded to non-residents as well as residents.

WHY CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON?

In a world that seems to get more dangerous every day, a little forethought can go a long way in defending your loved ones.

Many honest citizens know this, and they know that when seconds count, the police are minutes away — at best! These honest citizens take responsibility for their own safety and choose to carry a concealed weapon for the protection of their own lives and those of their loved ones. They are not vigilantes, they are not cow-boys or wanna-be cops and they are certainly not wanna-be killers. They are people like you and me who realize that life and family are worth protecting in a dangerous world, and they want to have a fighting chance should crime come unbidden to them. By doing so, they protect not only their own lives, but the lives of those around them. They do this by being a deterrent to those who would do them harm.

Before 1987 (when Florida laws set the standard for allowing “shall issue” carry permits), criminals knew it was very unlikely that their would-be victim was armed. No more! With the majority of states now being shall-is-

sue, and with more citizens carrying guns for protection on more American streets, criminals cannot know who is armed and who is not. This deters criminals and contributes to the decreasing trends in violent crimes nationwide. Carrying a gun is easier than carrying a cop. While the missions of the police officer and the armed citizen are different, guns in the hands of trained citizens can be just as effective against sudden attack as guns in the hands of trained police. The difference is, the responsibly armed citizen has the gun he carries immediately at hand when danger strikes and need not wait minutes or even hours for help to arrive. Any honest cop will tell you that most of the time, when they are called for help, they arrive after the danger has passed.

Violent crime has gone down in the United States for the last several decades, while the number of guns in civilian hands has gone up. But there is still more than enough violent crime to give the prudent citizen cause for alarm.

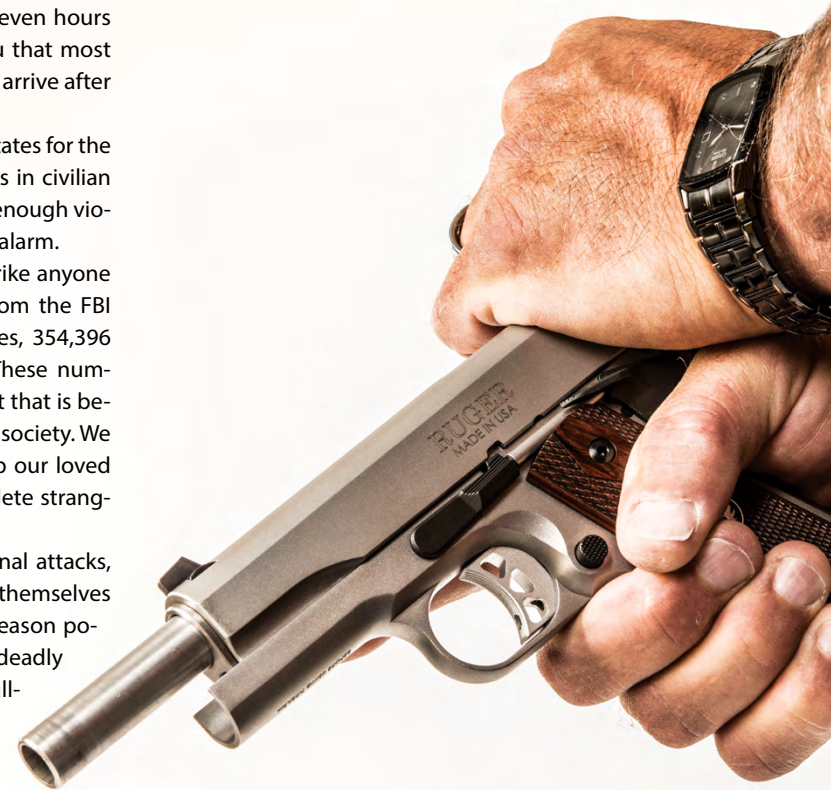
Violent crime is still a real threat that can strike anyone — anytime, anywhere. Last year’s statistics from the FBI show there were 14,612 murders, 83,425 rapes, 354,396 robberies and 751,131 aggravated assaults. These numbers are hard for some of us to understand, but that is because we are rational, law-abiding members of society. We

83,425 RAPES
14,612 MURDERS
354,396 ROBBERIES
751,131 ASSAULTS

are the sheepdogs that have to help our loved ones, our friends and even complete strangers from the wolves out there.

Facing the prospect of criminal attacks, many citizens choose to arm themselves with a handgun for the same reason police do: to protect themselves and others from deadly danger. Handguns are more convenient for full-time carry than rifles and shotguns, and given modern ammunition, they can be effective for defensive purposes. There are other options for personal protection, such as martial arts, knives or sub-lethal devices, such as OC pepper spray and noise makers. Such devices are sometimes less

effective at quickly and decisively stopping an aggressor, and they have the added disadvantage of needing to be used at close-contact range if they are to be effective at all. By contrast, a gun delivers a powerful deterrent blow at a safer distance than knives or pepper spray can. In the face of a potentially lethal attack, the number-one goal is the protection and survival of the innocent: That’s *you*, someone you love or another innocent person.



WHAT ABOUT THE LAWS?

Concealed carry legislation is young and constantly evolving.

Until 1934, guns were unregulated in the United States. That was the year the National Firearms Act made it illegal to possess a machine gun unless a \$200 excise tax was paid to the U.S. Treasury. Interestingly, Congress did not attempt to prohibit the possession, manufacture or sale of machine guns, instead opting to discourage and thus limit their ownership through the federal government's taxing authority. In 1934, \$200 was the equivalent of about \$3,277 today. Why do it that way? Simply because at that time, few people — including lawyers, judges and legal scholars — questioned that the Second Amendment meant what it said about the right of the people to keep and bear arms not being infringed.

That changed when the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA68) passed in the wake of the John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinations. To own a gun today, you must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident alien. Persons prohibited from owning firearms under GCA68 include:

- Those convicted of felonies and certain misdemeanors, except where state law reinstates rights or removes disability
- Fugitives from justice
- Unlawful users of certain depressant, narcotic or stimulant drugs
- Those adjudicated as mental defectives or incompe-

tents or those committed to any mental institution and currently suffering a dangerous mental illness

- Non-U.S. citizens, unless permanently immigrating into the U.S. or in possession of a hunting license legally issued in the U.S.
- Illegal Aliens
- Those who have renounced U.S. citizenship
- Minors, defined as under the age of 18, with the exception of those in Vermont, eligible at the age of 16 (applies to long guns and handguns)
- Persons convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence
- Persons under indictment for a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year are ineligible to receive, transport or ship any firearm or ammunition.

As long as you are not in one of the prohibited categories, you are federally eligible to own firearms in the U.S. and to apply for a concealed carry permit in most states.

State and local laws regarding gun ownership vary. Most closely follow the federal requirements, but some do not. Check the law in your state for the particular requirements, and follow them scrupulously. For a complete listing of each state's attorney general and the specifics of gun ownership and CCW regulations, visit www.USConcealedCarry.com/travel/get-your-ccw-permit.

With new laws passed in Illinois, all 50 states now allow some form of concealed carry. Six states allow "Constitutional Carry" (concealed carry without a state-issued permit). Three of those states also allow citizens to voluntarily apply for a carry permit.

There are 41 states that are officially "shall-issue" states. In shall-issue states, the requirements for getting a concealed carry permit are laid down by law. If you meet the requirements, the state shall issue the permit. Your right to carry in these states cannot be thwarted by a lone bureaucrat.

In nine states, the laws are "may-issue." May-issue states also have a list of requirements laid down by law. When

you meet these requirements, the state may issue your permit — or it may not, if the pertinent authorities decide not to. Two of these states are shall-issue in practice, but they are still technically may-issue by law. The District of Columbia recently transitioned to a "may-issue" situation, but legal wrangling within the district continues to make it very difficult for law-abiding citizens to acquire the proper permits.



GETTING YOUR PERMIT

If you live in a state that is shall-issue, your task is simple: find out the legal requirements for a concealed carry permit, meet them, apply for your permit and enjoy your new concealed carry privileges.

Shall-issue states typically have eligibility requirements pertaining to:

- Age
- Residency
- Substance abuse history
- Criminal history (felonies are an automatic disqualifier, as are domestic violence convictions)
- Firearms possession
- Training in the legal use of force, self-defense laws and marksmanship instruction
- Sometimes to demonstrate firearms proficiency

If you live in a may-issue state, getting a CCW is more difficult, and the outcome is far from certain. Most may-issue states have criteria similar to shall-issue states, but some do not.

Find out the requirements of your locality, try to meet them and hope you get your permit. If you don't, if your jurisdiction has an appeal process, and if you can afford it, appeal the adverse decision as far as the system and your resources allow.



CAN I CARRY EVERYWHERE I GO?

Knowing the law is as important as being able to hit your target.

Concealed carry permits are not recognized everywhere. The federal government and all states have places where they do not allow any firearms, much less concealed ones, regardless of the permits you have. The off-limits places usually include, but are not limited to, courtrooms, jails, police stations, school zones and the sterile area of airports. Every jurisdiction has its own rules.

Unlike a driver's license, states are not required to honor concealed carry permits issued by other states (although some states do have reciprocal agreements with other states that have similar laws). Because of this, and because the off-limits areas differ from one place to another, you will need to be prudent when traveling outside your home territory.

The July 2011 issue of *Concealed Carry Magazine* ran an article that went into the subject of traveling armed in some depth. You can view that story here: www.usconcealedcarry.com/seeing-the-usa-while-legally-armed/.

An internet resource that includes thorough coverage of state laws governing concealed carry for all 50 states and the District of Columbia is HandgunLaw.US, found at www.HandgunLaw.US/documents/USRV-CarCarry.pdf.

Thanks to the dramatic increase in the number of concealed carry permits over the past 25 years and rising public demand, as mentioned above, many states have established reciprocity procedures, allowing carry permits issued by one state to be honored in some other states. For example, 22 other states will honor a concealed firearm permit issued in Nevada. Nevada itself will honor both resident and non-resident carry permits issued by 15 other states.

The list of which states honor permits from other states (and which state's permits they will honor) is constantly changing. Before you travel outside your own state, you should always check to see if your carry permit is valid where you are going. You should also brush up on the rules of carry in that jurisdiction.

The USCCA maintains reciprocity information on their website at www.USConcealedCarry.com/travel. It is a powerful tool for you to use and is always available to reference prior to traveling across any state lines.



TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

Flying with your sidearm is legal, but it can present its own challenges. It is imperative that you know and understand all laws and regulations surrounding traveling with a gun.

O K, I know that a pistol must be in a secure case with a TSA-approved lock in order to fly with it in checked baggage.

My question is this: Is there a section stating that ammo can also be in that same secure case with the pistol? Can the ammunition be in a loaded magazine, or does it have to be in its original packaging? Would a GunVault or similar device be sufficient?

Art, via email

Art,

Perhaps not surprisingly, the Feds are a little ambiguous on this one. According to the TSA website (www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/firearms-and-ammunition), "Travelers must securely pack any ammunition in fiber (such as cardboard), wood or metal boxes or other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition. Firearm magazines and ammunition clips must be securely boxed or included within a hard-sided case containing an unloaded firearm. Small arms ammunition, including ammunition not exceeding .75 caliber for a rifle or pistol and shotgun shells of any

gauge, may be carried in the same hard-sided case as the firearm, as long as it follows the packing guidelines described above."

So even though I would consult the website personally and possibly make a phone call to a TSA agent or a 2A attorney, it certainly seems that you would be within your rights to transport loaded magazines in the same lockable hard-sided case as you are transporting the unloaded firearm — provided that they are packed "in fiber (such as cardboard), wood or metal boxes or other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition."

That said, I will be packing my ammunition in original factory boxes simply to streamline my travel and minimize my chances of running afoul of a TSA agent who maybe hasn't done his or her homework.

Stay safe,
Ed Combs
Associate Editor
Concealed Carry Magazine



WHAT TO SAY TO THE POLICE IF YOU ARE FORCED TO DEFEND YOURSELF WITH A GUN

In the event that you are forced to defend yourself from a lethal threat with your firearm, the next few moments are extremely important.

Some individuals claim that the best thing to do after you're forced to shoot in self-defense is to "not say a word until your lawyer is present." This is a recipe for disaster. If you are forced to defend yourself, and you are forced to do so by even just drawing your gun, you need to dial 911 immediately and report exactly what happened to police. In the vast majority of cases, the first party to contact law enforcement is seen by the justice system as the victim, so make that call right away.

After the police arrive, it is imperative that you no longer be holding your gun and that you physically cooperate with them in every way. You will likely be handcuffed, and you might even be placed in a police car until the law


enforcement officers can physically secure the scene of the shooting and figure out what happened. Here's where what you say and how you say it become so consequential.

As soon as you have the opportunity, you need to alert responding law enforcement that you were attacked with deadly force, that you were in fear for your life and that you shot because it was your only course of action to prevent the loss of life. Point out evidence, point out witnesses and never forget that law enforcement officers are tired, overworked and can miss things. Point out those cartridge cases on the ground, because the EMT who's coming in to see if you're hurt might kick them away otherwise. Point out the witnesses who recorded the shoot-

ing on their cell phones, because they might not just walk up out of the crowd and volunteer to tell the police what they just saw.

After you've given the law enforcement officers the bare bones of what happened — you were attacked with deadly force, in direct fear for your life and responded accordingly — you need to tell them that you intend to cooperate fully but will need to have a lawyer present to say any more than you already have. Remember: If cops are forced to shoot someone, they're spirited away from news cameras and given time to cool down and collect their thoughts before telling their side of the story; you need to do the same.





ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES?

If you are forced to defend yourself with lethal force, you can unfortunately expect things to get worse before they get better

Self-defense with a gun is a fight for survival. The stakes are, literally, life and death. Nothing less justifies using deadly force. But no one really *wins* a gun fight. The best you can do — the very best you can hope to achieve in a defensive gun situation — is to keep what you have: your life, your well-being and the lives and well-being of your loved ones. There will be consequences of your use of deadly force for self-defense, even if it is successful. One of those consequences is having to live the rest of your life knowing you've seriously injured (or taken the life) of someone. There can be serious criminal and civil consequences for even the most justified of self-defense shootings. These consequences can best be summarized by observing that there are three separate and distinct problems associated with defensive gun use:

1. **Surviving the gun fight**
2. **Surviving the *criminal* justice system**
3. **Surviving the *civil* justice system**

Surviving the gun fight might be the easiest of the problems, but it is by far the most important. If you don't survive, there's nothing else for you to worry about — at least not in this life. That makes surviving the gun fight **Problem No. 1**. You do that by 1) being a responsible gun owner, 2) being a responsible gun carrier, and 3) working diligently to achieve a level of skill with your arms so that you are in the best possible position to prevail if ever you must struggle for your life with a firearm.

THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN A DEFENSIVE GUN SITUATION IS TO KEEP WHAT YOU HAVE: YOUR LIFE, YOUR WELL-BEING AND THE LIVES AND WELL-BEING OF YOUR LOVED ONES.

COURT HOUSE

SURVIVING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

You will almost certainly deal with the police after a defensive gun use. They will in all likelihood respond to the scene of the shooting, and they will treat it as a crime scene. They will treat you as a criminal suspect, until and unless they determine differently.

You will likely be handcuffed, you might spend a night (or more) in jail, and you will most definitely need to explain and defend your actions to the criminal justice system: the police, prosecutors and possibly a jury of your peers. How well you do that, and the resources you might or might not have at your disposal to help you

through that process, will have a huge impact on the rest of your life.

Even the most justifiable shootings can be cast in a bad light by sloppy police work, anti-gun prosecutors looking to make a name for themselves by hanging your scalp on their belt or by *you* if you cannot convincingly articulate why you resorted to deadly force at that place and time. If the police or prosecutor decides criminal charges against you are appropriate, you must defend those charges.

Even a losing criminal defense is expensive, and even

bad lawyers don't work cheap! The average criminal defense costs around \$100,000 — and it can be **much** more, depending on the nature and complexity of your case.

While a defense of criminal charges might not be necessary in your case, it might well be too. These things can never be predicted in advance, but they must be thoroughly considered before you decide to carry a gun concealed for self-defense and in advance of your pulling the trigger.

SURVIVING THE CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Have you ever heard the common warning, “If you shoot someone, you WILL get sued!”? Unfortunately, this statement is not far from the truth. Assuming you survive the gunfight and your encounter with the criminal justice system, the criminal or his surviving family might sue you for using a gun to defend yourself.

If you **are** sued, you must defend the suit or you lose by default.

The standard of proof required to win a civil suit is not *beyond a reasonable doubt* like it is in a criminal trial. No! It’s by a preponderance of the evidence, which is a **much lower** standard. That means that even if you survive the criminal trial unscathed, you could still lose the lawsuit.

That’s right: Even after you have been successful in criminal court, *you can still be found liable for damages in civil court.*

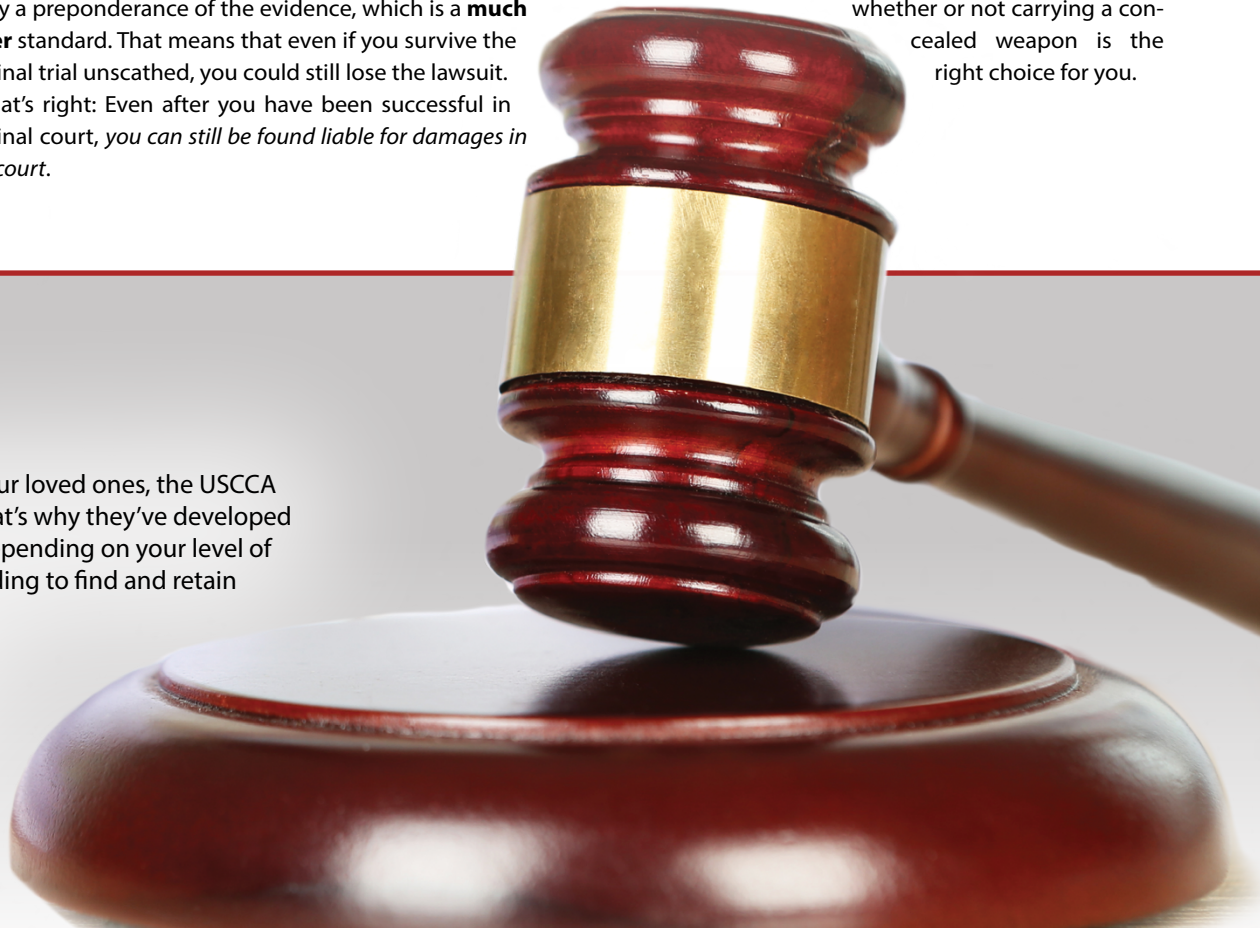
That’s why the USCCA offers its members the Self-Defense SHIELD benefit — insurance-backed protection that provides upfront funding to find and retain a qualified lawyer who can defend your good name and your livelihood.

Keep in mind that the full legal aftermath of a defensive gun use, with its range of possibilities and how to prepare for them, is beyond the scope of this article. Still, it is something you **must** consider — and consider well — as you think through and decide whether or not carrying a concealed weapon is the right choice for you.



If you’re forced to use a weapon in defense of yourself or your loved ones, the USCCA does not want to see you become a victim of the courts. That’s why they’ve developed an insurance-backed benefit called Self-Defense SHIELD. Depending on your level of membership, this benefit will provide you with upfront funding to find and retain an experienced attorney who will work hard to protect you.

You can learn more about Self-Defense SHIELD at www.USConcealedCarry.com





“WHEN SECONDS COUNT,
THE POLICE ARE MINUTES AWAY...”



YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MAY BE FORCED TO DEFEND YOUR FAMILY...

After you defend yourself or your family with your gun, you'll be forced to defend yourself again...in the courtroom! Your USCCA Membership will give you peace of mind knowing every decision you make—before, during, AND after a self-defense incident—is the *right decision*.

You shouldn't have to worry about your justified acts of self-defense costing you and your family everything you've worked for. The USCCA provides up to \$1,100,000 in legal and financial protection to tens of thousands of responsibly armed Americans *just like you* who will do whatever it takes to ensure the ultimate protection of their loved ones.

Get Instantly Protected Today: www.USConcealedCarry.com