

ARTICLE III. FIREARMS

Sec. 7.8-46. Legislative findings; purpose and intent.

It is found that the use of firearms and other weapons in the Town of Weston may endanger the health and safety of the town's residents. Accordingly, it is found necessary to the general welfare of the town and its residents that the possession, use and storage of firearms and other weapons in the town be regulated and controlled, so that the health and safety of the town's residents may be protected.

Sec. 7.8-47. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, certain words are defined as follows:

Firearms: means any Automatic Weapon, Rifle, Shotgun, Pistol, Revolver, Handgun or Other Weapon from which a shot may be discharged. Weapons that are not functional, including weapons maintained solely for display or historical purposes, are excluded from this definition.

Automatic Weapon: means a weapon of any description, irrespective of size, by whatever name known, from which a number of shots or bullets may be rapidly or automatically discharged from a magazine with one continuous pull of the trigger and includes a machine gun or submachine gun.

Rifle: means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

Shotgun: means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

Pistol, Revolver and Handgun: means any Firearm having a barrel less than twelve inches long.

Assault Weapon: shall have the same meaning as that provided under state law.

Other weapon: means any other weapon, including, but not limited to, any airguns, long bows, cross bows, slingshots, or other implements that impel with force a projectile of any kind.

Landowner: means the legal or beneficial owner of a parcel of land, or a tenant of such owner, or an authorized agent or invited guest of such owner or of such tenant, or a member of the immediate family of such owner or tenant, or any other person in possession of a parcel of land by legal right.

Immediate family: shall include the spouse or children of such owner or tenant.

Residential Target Practice: means shooting at a fixed object in a place zoned as residential in the zoning regulations of the town of Weston. "Residential Target Practice" shall not include trapshooting, skeet shooting and shooting at sporting clays with shotguns, in which clay targets are thrown to simulate birds in flight.

Sec. 7.8-48. Prohibition

(a) No person shall possess or discharge any Assault Weapon, Automatic Weapon or any detachable magazine capable of storing more than ten (10) rounds of ammunition in the Town of Weston.

(b) No person shall own, possess or discharge any Firearm or Other Weapon in the town of Weston except for the following:

(1) A person who has obtained from the chief of police of the Town of Weston a permit for the ownership of a Firearm and who has registered each Firearm with the chief of Police. The discharge of any Firearm is limited to (a) a Landowner (or permitted guest thereof) on his or her own property having taken, necessary precautions to insure that any bullet, pellet, or projectile is confined strictly to said Landowner's property; (b) the premises of the Weston Gun Club; (c) controlled deer hunting approved by the First Selectman on designated property within the Town of Weston; or (d) a person acting to protect his or her person from lethal force.

(2) A peace officer, or a member of the armed forces of the United States or of the State or Connecticut, or an authorized messenger or bank guard, and only when such person is acting in the performance of his or her duties as such.

(c) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall discharge any Firearm anywhere in the town of Weston, except that persons between the ages of twelve (12) years and sixteen (16) years may discharge a firearm for Residential Target Practice pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, provided that such Firearm is discharged in the presence of and under the supervision of the person's parent, legal guardian, school or camp official.

Sec. 7.8-49. Application for permit

(a) Any person wishing to apply for a permit and to register a Firearm under 7.8-48(b) (1) shall fill out and submit an application provided by the chief of police of the town of Weston.

(b) No such permit shall be issued unless the applicant proves to the satisfaction of the chief of police of the town of Weston that the applicant has passed the Connecticut Conservation Education firearms safety course or is the holder of a valid pistol permit issued by the state Department of Public Safety. Production by the applicant of a certificate of passage of such course or a copy of such original permit shall be proof of the same.

Sec. 7.8-50. State and federal regulations applicable.

Nothing herein shall be construed to permit the use, possession or discharge of any Firearm for any purpose otherwise prohibited or regulated under any federal or state statute or regulation or any agency thereof.

Sec. 7.8-51. Storage.

No person shall store or keep any Firearm on any premises under his or her control within the Town of Weston unless such person keeps the Firearm in a securely locked box constructed of steel or similar material. The foregoing shall not apply at any time during which such person carries the Firearm on his or her person or within such close proximity thereto that he or she can readily retrieve and use it as if carried it on his or her person.

Sec. 7.8-52. Penalty

Any person who violates the provisions of this article shall be subject to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each such violation. This penalty shall apply to the parent or legal guardian of any person who violates the provisions of section 7.8-48(b).