



FIREARM SAFETY TEAM · OFFICIAL COURSE MATERIAL

Oregon Concealed Handgun License Course

This course fulfills the Oregon educational requirement to apply for your CHL. Completing this material means accepting the serious responsibility of carrying a firearm — safely and legally.

⌚ ~90 Minutes

💻 Live Zoom · \$30

📜 Certificate Issued

📍 All 36 Counties

firearmsafetyteam.com/oregon-chl · Reflects Oregon law as of **July 2026**

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Disclaimer & How to Use This Guide

Read this first — then join the live class to get certified.

Disclaimer

This training material is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. This document reflects Oregon law as of **July 2026**. Firearm laws — including Measure 114, SB 554, and SB 243 — are subject to change and ongoing judicial review. Always consult a qualified Oregon attorney for specific legal questions.

What's inside

- 1 The Cardinal Rules of Firearm Safety
- 2 Oregon Legal Framework (carry, storage, SB 243, Measure 114 status)
- 3 Use of Force (ORS 161)
- 4 Practical Carry & Gear
- 5 Applying for Your CHL + all 36 county sheriffs
- 6 Continue Learning + References

How to get certified

Read this material, then join Anth's live Oregon CHL Zoom class (\$30) to complete the course and receive your certificate — valid in all 36 Oregon counties. Book at firearmsafetyteam.com/online-classes.

MODULE 1

The Cardinal Rules of Firearm Safety

The foundation of everything — these four rules apply at all times, everywhere.

01 • Treat all firearms as if they are loaded. *(Personal Verification)*

Never assume a gun is empty until you have personally verified it — every single time you handle it.

02 • Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing to destroy. *(Muzzle Control)*

Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction to prevent injury from an accidental discharge.

03 • Keep your finger off the trigger until you are on target and have decided to fire.

(Trigger Discipline)

Rest your finger along the frame or slide, outside the trigger guard, until you have consciously decided to shoot.

04 • Be sure of your target and what is beyond it. *(Target ID & Backstop)*

Bullets travel long distances and penetrate walls. You are legally and morally responsible for every round you fire.

Additional safety protocols

Impairment

Never handle or carry a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or any prescription medication that impairs judgment. There is no safe level when firearms are involved.

Cleaning procedure

Always unload the firearm in a separate room from your ammunition. Check the chamber AND magazine well three times before beginning any maintenance.

Mental health & suicide prevention

About 40% of suicides in Multnomah County involve a firearm. If a household member is in crisis, limit access immediately — change safe combinations or temporarily store firearms with a trusted person or law enforcement. The **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** is available 24/7.

Go deeper: Safety Fundamentals · Cleaning & Maintenance · Crisis & Community Resources — all at firearmsafetyteam.com.

MODULE 2

Oregon Legal Framework

ORS 166.291 · SB 554 · SB 243 · Measure 114 · Portland & Multnomah local ordinances

Possession & Carry

- **Open carry** — Generally legal in Oregon statewide. However, Portland and Multnomah County prohibit open carry of loaded firearms in public without a CHL.
- **Concealed carry** — Requires a valid Oregon CHL. "Concealed" includes covering with a jacket or placing a firearm in a bag or purse — even partially out of sight.
- **Vehicle (no CHL)** — Must be locked in the trunk or a locked container, key removed, firearm unloaded, and not "readily accessible" at any time.

Reciprocity

Oregon does **not** recognize CHLs from any other state. Conversely, your Oregon CHL is not valid in Washington. You may only legally carry concealed in Oregon with an Oregon-issued CHL.

Prohibited Places — Even With a Valid CHL

- **Federal facilities** — Post offices, federal courthouses, secure areas of airports (past TSA).
- **Court facilities** — State courthouses and any building occupied by court personnel (unless authorized by the presiding judge). Violation is a Class C felony.
- **Schools, colleges & universities (SB 554)** — School districts, community colleges, and public universities may prohibit CHL carry if they post clear signage and website notices. Always check the specific institution's policy.
- **Posted public buildings (SB 243, 2025)** — As of 2025, the state, cities, counties, and other public bodies may bar concealed-carry licensees from public buildings and adjacent grounds when they post clear signage at each entrance. Watch for posted notices at city halls, libraries, and government offices.
- **Private property** — Owners may ban firearms on their premises. Posted signs must be respected.
- **Indian reservations** — Generally prohibited without explicit tribal permission.

Secure Storage & Strict Liability (SB 554)

- **Storage requirement** — When not under your immediate control, firearms must be secured with a trigger lock, cable lock, or in a locked container (safe/lockbox).
- **Vehicle storage** — A handgun left unattended in a vehicle must be in a locked container (glove box or trunk) and not visible from outside the vehicle.
- **Strict liability** — If you fail to secure your firearm and it is used to injure someone, you can be held strictly liable — responsible even if you acted reasonably.

- **Theft reporting** — Report lost/stolen firearms within **72 hours** statewide, or **48 hours** in Multnomah County per local ordinance.

Recent Changes — SB 243 (2025) **IN EFFECT NOW**

The **Oregon Suicide Prevention and Community Safety Firearms Act** took effect in 2025. Unlike Measure 114, **these rules are law right now:**

- **Rapid-fire devices banned** — Bump stocks, binary triggers, and similar rapid-fire activators are prohibited. Possession is a Class A misdemeanor; manufacture or transport is a Class B felony.
- **Under-21 purchase limits** — Most semi-automatic firearm purchases now require the buyer to be 21 or older, with narrow exceptions for certain hunting long guns (e.g., bolt-action or pump rifles and shotguns remain 18+).
- **Public-building carry** — Public bodies may bar CHL holders from public buildings and adjacent grounds when signage is posted at each entrance (see "Posted public buildings" above).

✓ **No mandatory waiting period**

The 72-hour waiting period originally proposed in SB 243 was removed before the bill passed. In Oregon you may take possession as soon as your background check clears — though a check can be delayed beyond the instant response.

Measure 114 — Current Status

NOT IN EFFECT

UPDATED JULY 2026

Bottom line: Measure 114 has **never** taken effect, and it **cannot take effect before January 1, 2028**. Today, no purchase permit is required and standard-capacity magazines remain legal to buy, own, and carry in Oregon.

- **State case — the reason it's on hold (*Arnold v. Kotek*).** A Harney County judge struck Measure 114 down in 2023. On **March 12, 2025** the Oregon Court of Appeals reversed and held the measure constitutional under the Oregon Constitution. Challengers petitioned the **Oregon Supreme Court**, which heard oral argument on **November 6, 2025**. As of July 2026 the court has **not issued a decision**, so the measure stays blocked statewide. This state case — not the federal one — is what keeps Measure 114 from taking effect.
- **Federal case (*OFF v. Kotek*).** A federal judge **upheld** Measure 114 in July 2023, and that ruling is on appeal at the Ninth Circuit. The federal courts have **not** blocked the law, so the federal case is not what's holding it up.
- **Legislative delay — earliest start January 1, 2028 (HB 4145).** In 2026 the Legislature passed **HB 4145** — signed into law that April — pushing the earliest possible start date for **both** the permit-to-purchase system and the magazine limit to **January 1, 2028**. Even if the courts uphold Measure 114, its rules cannot be enforced before that date, and the state permit program is not yet built or accepting applications.

If Measure 114 ever takes effect...	What it would do
Permit to Purchase (not in effect)	Require a permit before buying any firearm, including a background check and completion of an approved safety course.
Magazine Capacity (not in effect)	Limit magazines to 10 rounds. For now, higher-capacity magazines remain legal in Oregon.

Status can change fast

The Oregon Supreme Court could rule at any time. Before making a purchasing decision, confirm the current status with the **Oregon State Police** Permit-to-Purchase program page or track the case and legislation at the **Oregon Legislature (OLIS)**. For a deeper dive, see FST's *Oregon Firearm Laws and Purchase Process* guides.

MODULE 3

Use of Force

ORS 161.209 — when physical and deadly force is legally justified in Oregon.

Physical force (non-deadly). You may use physical force if you **reasonably believe** it is necessary to defend yourself or another from the use or imminent use of unlawful physical force. "*Imminent*" means the threat is about to happen immediately — someone standing in front of you with a raised fist, not a threat made over the phone yesterday.

Deadly physical force is justified **only** when you reasonably believe another person is:

1. Committing or attempting a felony involving physical force (e.g., a violent robbery);
2. Committing or attempting a burglary in a dwelling; or
3. Using or about to use unlawful deadly physical force against you or another.

The I.M.O. Triangle — evaluating a threat

All three must be present to justify deadly force:

- **I — Intent:** Does the person intend serious harm? (Verbal threats, aggressive movement toward you.)
- **M — Means:** Do they have the ability to cause serious bodily harm? (Weapon, size/strength advantage.)
- **O — Opportunity:** Are they physically capable of carrying it out right now? (Close enough, no barriers.)

Practical scenarios

⚠️ A — The fleeing intruder → DO NOT SHOOT

An intruder turns and runs out the front door. Once the person flees, the threat is no longer imminent. You generally cannot use deadly force solely to retrieve property or stop a fleeing suspect.

✅ B — The imminent threat → LIKELY JUSTIFIED

An intruder drops your TV, pulls a knife, and walks toward you with a fixed stare after you commanded them to leave. Intent, Means, and Opportunity are all present — the IMO triangle is complete.

⚠️ C — Road rage, the aggressor → NOT JUSTIFIED

You exit your vehicle to argue, get into a fistfight, lose, and draw your gun. You were a willing participant and the initial aggressor; you generally cannot claim self-defense when you provoked the confrontation.

⚔ **Duty to retreat**

Oregon does **not** have a "Stand Your Ground" law. While you generally have no duty to retreat from your own home (Castle Doctrine), in public a court may consider whether retreat was a reasonable option before using deadly force.

After a defensive incident

If you are ever forced to defend yourself: ensure the scene is safe, call **911** immediately, report that you were the victim of an attack and request police and medical aid, and avoid detailed statements until you have spoken with an attorney. Self-defense legal-coverage programs exist for exactly this situation.

Go deeper: Self-Defense & the Legal Aftermath · Self-Defense Legal Insurance.

MODULE 4

Practical Carry & Gear

Holsters, ammunition selection, and law-enforcement contact.

Holster selection. Your carry method must balance four competing needs: **Concealability · Speed & Access · Comfort · Security.**

- **On-body vs. off-body:** Avoid loose carry in a purse or backpack. If carrying off-body, use a bag with a dedicated holster compartment — loose carry is dangerous and slow.
- **Kydex:** Check that retention screws stay tight. A loose screw can allow the trigger to be accessed.
- **Leather:** Inspect regularly for wear that could fold into the trigger guard — especially with OWB holsters.

Ammunition selection

❗ Practice ammo — Full Metal Jacket (FMJ / "ball")

Cost-effective for range training. Not recommended for carry.

✅ Self-defense carry ammo — Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP)

Expands on impact ("mushrooms"), maximizing stopping power while reducing overpenetration and the risk of hitting bystanders. Always carry JHP.

Interacting with law enforcement while carrying

If you are pulled over while carrying, follow these steps in order — the goal is safety for everyone:

1. **Hands on the wheel.** Keep both hands visible from the moment you pull over until the officer gives further instructions.
2. **Inform the officer.** Calmly state: *"Officer, I have a Concealed Handgun License and I am currently carrying a firearm. How would you like to proceed?"*
3. **Do not reach.** Never reach for your wallet, registration, or the firearm until you are explicitly instructed to do so. Unexpected movement is dangerous.
4. **Disclosure note.** Oregon law does not strictly require you to immediately announce your CHL, but proactive disclosure is strongly recommended to avoid misunderstandings.

Studies of over 1,600 armed traffic stops show officers respond most positively when the driver is calm, hands are visible, and disclosure is immediate and clear.

⚠️ Be ready to stop bleeding

Carrying a firearm and carrying trauma gear go together. Learn to use a tourniquet and pressure dressing — the same skills that save a life at a range accident or car crash.

Go deeper: Concealed Carry Gear · Ammunition Selection · Lead Safety · Marksmanship Fundamentals · Stop the Bleed.

MODULE 5

Applying for Your CHL

The Oregon CHL is issued by the Sheriff of your county of residence.

Eligibility requirements

- U.S. citizen or legal resident
- At least 21 years old
- Valid Oregon driver's license or state ID
- No felony convictions
- No outstanding warrants or active pretrial release
- No misdemeanor convictions within the last 4 years
- Not subject to a stalking citation or qualifying protective order
- Completed handgun safety training (this course)

Residency/documentation specifics vary by county — confirm exact requirements with your county sheriff before applying.

Automatic disqualifiers (ORS 166.291)

Convicted of any felony · Misdemeanor conviction within the last 4 years · Outstanding arrest warrants · Currently on pretrial release · Committed to the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 426.130 · Found mentally ill and subject to a firearm prohibition order · Unlawful user of or addicted to controlled substances · Dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces · Subject to a stalking citation or qualifying protective order · Pending criminal charges (sheriff's discretion).

Application steps — Multnomah County (example)

1. **Apply online or in person** — Complete the application at mcso.us or visit the kiosk at 3083 NE 170th Place, Portland.
2. **Schedule appointment** — Book fingerprinting and your photograph.
3. **Pay the fee** — Approximately \$115. Credit card online; cash or check in person.
4. **Bring documentation** — Valid Oregon Driver's License or State ID; proof of residency if your ID address isn't current (tax return, lease, or voter registration); this course-completion certificate; and proof of citizenship (passport or birth certificate) if not born in the U.S.

Apply in your county

The Oregon CHL is issued by the Sheriff of your county of residence. All 36 county sheriff offices accept CHL applications. For current sheriff names, phone numbers, and portals, see the live **County Directory** at firearmsafetyteam.com/oregon-chl and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association at oregonchl.org.

All 36 Oregon counties

Baker · Benton · Clackamas · Clatsop · Jefferson · Josephine · Klamath · Lake · Wallowa · Wasco · Washington ·
Columbia · Coos · Crook · Curry · Lane · Lincoln · Linn · Malheur · Marion · Wheeler · Yamhill
Deschutes · Douglas · Gilliam · Grant · · Morrow · Multnomah · Polk ·
Harney · Hood River · Jackson · Sherman · Tillamook · Umatilla · Union

KEEP GOING

Continue Learning

This course is a starting point. Go deeper with FST's free learning library — all under firearmsafetyteam.com.

Safety Fundamentals /[safety-fundamentals](#)

The four rules, range etiquette, and safe handling in depth.

Purchase Process /[oregon-firearm-purchase-process](#)

Step-by-step guide to buying a firearm legally in Oregon.

Self-Defense & Use of Force /[self-defense-resources](#)

Use of force, the legal aftermath, and de-escalation.

Concealed Carry Gear /[concealed-carry-gear](#)

Holsters, belts, and daily carry that actually works.

Marksmanship Fundamentals /[marksmanship-fundamentals](#)

Grip, stance, sight picture, and trigger control.

Ranges & Clubs /[oregon-ranges-and-clubs](#)

Where to practice across Oregon.

Oregon Firearm Laws /[oregon-firearm-laws](#)

State law, background checks, Measure 114, SB 243 & SB 554.

Who Can Own a Firearm /[eligibility](#)

Federal and Oregon eligibility, and restoration of rights.

Self-Defense Insurance /[concealed-carry-insurance](#)

Legal-defense coverage for a lawful self-defense incident.

Ammunition /[ammunition](#)

FMJ vs. JHP, calibers, and choosing carry ammo.

Stop the Bleed /[stop-the-bleed](#)

Trauma first aid every armed citizen should know.

Glossary /[glossary](#)

Plain-English definitions of firearm terms.

SOURCES

References & Official Sources

Reflects Oregon law as of July 2026 — verify current status before acting.

- FST Oregon CHL Course — firearmsafetyteam.com/oregon-chl
- ORS 161 — General Provisions (Use of Force) — oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors161.html
- ORS 166 — Offenses Against Public Order; Firearms — oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors166.html
- ORS 166.291 — CHL Requirements
- Multnomah County Sheriff — CHLPREP — chlprep.mcso.us/CHLprep/
- Oregon State Sheriffs' Association — oregonchl.org
- Ballotpedia — Oregon Measure 114 (2022)
- Oregon DOJ — Court of Appeals ruling on Measure 114 (March 12, 2025)
- Oregon Capital Chronicle — Measure 114 at the Oregon Supreme Court (Nov. 2025)
- Oregon Legislature — HB 4145 (2026): Measure 114 delayed to Jan. 1, 2028 — olis.oregonlegislature.gov
- Oregon Legislature — SB 243 (2025): Community Safety Firearms Act
- Oregon State Police — Permit-to-Purchase Program (not yet operational)

Ready to get your CHL?

Join Anth's live Oregon CHL Zoom course — every Thursday, 6:00–7:30 PM or 7:30–9:00 PM. Just **\$30**.
Certificate issued upon completion, valid in all 36 Oregon counties.

Book at firearmsafetyteam.com/online-classes

Certificate valid in all 36 Oregon counties · Meets the Oregon CHL handgun-safety training requirement · Reflects Oregon law as of July 2026.