

NOTICE TO:

OFFICERS, AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNING BODIES OF PUBLIC AGENCIES

1. You have been provided a copy of the Grand Jury's Final Report two working days prior to its public release and after its approval by the presiding judge. You are prohibited from disclosing any contents of the report prior to the public release of the report. (Penal Code Section 933.05(f)).
2. If you are required to respond to the findings and recommendations of this report, you are urged to review the provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05 subsections (a), (b) and (c), before submitting your response.
3. For 45 days after the end of our term, the foreman and designee shall, upon reasonable notice, be available to officers, agencies, departments of governing in this report, for clarification of the recommendations directed to them. (See Penal Code Section 933 (a)).



**Inyo County Grand Jury Report
2022-2023**

Concealed Carry Weapon Renewals

CCW RENEWAL REPORT

2022-2023 Grand Jury REPORT

Summary

Application for renewal of a concealed carry weapon permit (CCW) issued in Inyo County can be done on-line at the Inyo County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) website. Comprehensive instructions and information are provided to enable the renewal but no specific information is provided as to the minimum processing times when the application is submitted with all necessary documentation. Lack of this information creates the potential that a CCW holder may not apply for and receive the renewal before the expiration of their existing permit.

The Inyo County Grand Jury recommends that typical processing times be included on the website, establishing a minimum time needed to renew a CCW permit if all necessary documents are submitted with the application, and resolution of some minor discrepancies on the ICSO CCW website.

Background

A concealed carry - weapon (CCW) permit authorizes a person to carry a concealed (loaded) firearm on their person in California for protection of themselves or their family. In Inyo County, the CCW is issued by the Inyo County Sheriff's Office (ICSO). You may apply for a CCW if:

- You are of good moral character.
- Your primary residence is in Inyo County.
- You have completed a course of training prescribed by the ICSO.
- You haven't been convicted of a felony or certain misdemeanors.
- You aren't addicted to narcotics and haven't been diagnosed as mentally ill.
- You haven't lost your gun rights because of a domestic violence conviction.
- You are at least 21 years of age.

Applying for a CCW in Inyo County is done on-line, requires proof of residency, an 8 hour training course, gun handling proficiency certification, payment of fees, a background and criminal record check and an interview with the ICSO. Granting a CCW is at the discretion of the Inyo County Sheriff.

The CCW is valid for up to three firearms approved by the State of California for 2 years from the date of issue.

Renewing a CCW requires an on-line application, like applying for the original CCW, except that an interview is not required and the training course is 4 rather than 8 hours.

You may not legally carry a concealed weapon with an expired CCW. ICSO will accept a renewal application within 6 months of the expiration date rather than requiring a new CCW application.

Methodology

During this investigation the Inyo County Grand Jury (ICGJ) took the following steps:

- Reviewed California Penal Codes § 25400, 25850, 26205, 26210, 26155 and other related codes.
- Reviewed Inyo County Sheriff's Office website sections on obtaining and renewing a CCW.
- Conducted interviews with CCW holders that have gone through the renewal process.
- Conducted interviews with ICSO personnel involved in processing CCW renewals.
- Reviewed and analyzed information and data provided by ICSO at the request of the ICGJ.

Discussion

The ICGJ received comments from community members concerning the CCW renewal process within Inyo County. The concerns expressed were about the uncertainty of the renewal process, renewals that were not received before the original CCW expired, being notified only a day or so before the expiration date that the permit had been approved or that an inquiry to the ICSO was needed to facilitate a timely renewal.

The ICSO uses an on-line system by a company called Permittium to process and track CCW applications and renewals.

The CCW renewal (general information) section on the ICSO website states that renewal applications may not be submitted more than 90 days prior to the expiration date.¹ While the guidance and instructions for renewing a CCW are comprehensive, there is no guidance on when an application should be submitted to assure a timely renewal.

According to ICSO staff, the typical processing time for CCW renewals is 90 days. There is no established statutory requirement on processing times except that a CCW applicant who is denied a renewal must be notified within 90 days of submitting the application. If an applicant does not provide all the necessary documentation, training certifications, payment of fees, if there are issues with the mandatory California

¹ Changed to 180 days on May 2, 2023

Department of Justice (CDOJ) records and weapons check or other required reviews the process may extend beyond 90 days. However, as a matter of practice, applications are accepted up to 180 days before the CCW expiration date according to ICSO staff.

The number of ICSO personnel trained and authorized to process CCW's is limited. There are few if any backups. Illness, vacations, or other absences of these key individuals can have an impact on processing times.

If a CCW is renewed before the original expiration date the new expiration date will reflect the effective date of the renewal. It is ICSO practice to delay notification of approved applications until near the expiration date of the original permit so as not to reset the renewal date. While reasonable, this practice is not mentioned on the ICSO website and may cause uncertainty about actual renewal process times.

An analysis of CCW renewal data provided by ICSO for the last 4 months of 2022 showed that the average processing time from receipt of application to notification of the applicant of successful renewal was 70 days. The shortest was 25 days and the longest was 107 days. None of the renewals during that period were for previously expired CCW's, based on information provided by ICSO.

Documentation provided by interviewees did show renewal dates after the original CCW permit had expired in previous years. In two cases, the renewal applications were submitted less than 90 days before the expiration date, and in one case there was a significant delay caused by incorrect information in the CDOJ weapon record system. Documentation of inquiries by applicants about processing times showed ICSO responses were rather generic and not specific to the particular application involved.

In one case an applicant received what appeared to be an automated notice from Permitium stating that their CCW was "set to expire" six days after the permit had actually expired and indicating up to 120 business days could be required to process the renewal.

Findings

F1 There are discrepancies between the information for renewing a CCW on the ICSO website and current practice.

F2 No information is presented on the ICSO website as to typical CCW renewal process times nor an indication of the minimum time necessary to receive a renewal before the existing CCW expiration date.

F3 The Permitium CCW expiration notice process is problematic.

Recommendations

R1 The Grand Jury recommends ICSO review and revise the website to eliminate discrepancies between stated and actual CCW renewal practices by Dec 31, 2023. (F1)

R2 The Grand Jury recommends ICSO provide guidance on the website as to typical CCW renewal times by Dec 31, 2023 (F2)

R3 The Grand Jury recommends ICSO clearly indicate the minimum time required to renew a CCW if all documentation is properly submitted by Dec 31, 2023. (F2)

R4 The Grand Jury recommends ICSO assure expiration date notices sent by Permitium are accurate and include guidance for timely renewals by Dec 31, 2023. (F3)

Request For Responses

- 1) Responses to recommendations R1, R2, R3 and R4 are requested from the Inyo County Sheriff's Office, as required by Penal Code §933.05.

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