

GOAL News - Print Edition

Faced with Surrendering Your Firearms: What You Can Do

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GOAL Note: Mark is a GOAL member and the owner of Consolidated Firearms Services, a new gunsmith/FFL/bonded warehouse in Hudson, MA.

Picture this: It's 3AM and you're faced with a medical emergency. You immediately call 911 and do everything you can to get by until the paramedics or police arrive. In the midst of the frenzy, you overlook the fact that your gun is resting against your nightstand. Thanks to Massachusetts state law, the police who've arrived to help you can now confiscate your gun because it wasn't stored properly. Do you know what happens to you, your firearms, and your financial investment in them after they get taken? If not, now's the time to pay attention.

Very few people actually want to surrender their firearms. In some cases, you're caught off guard without a current FID, LTC, or valid receipt for the renewal of your license. In other cases, you're faced with a criminal situation or a 209A restraining order, or your FID or LTC application is simply denied. In all cases, you're required to immediately surrender all of your guns and ammunition (under MGL 140 section 129D) to your local Licensing Authority, which usually is the local police.

After surrendering, the process of trying to get your firearms back can be difficult, and depending on

the severity of your situation, may be impossible. The Licensing Authority who now has your firearms can keep them at their own police station, send them to the Colonel of the State Police, or send them to a Bonded Firearms Warehouse. You'll be provided with a receipt that documents where the firearms will be stored. If the State Police holds onto them, they'll also provide a copy of your receipt to the local Licensing Authority. You can only hope that they'll choose the best option—a Bonded Warehouse. If not, the police have the right to sell your possessions after a period of one year if you do nothing, and the state Treasurer reaps the profits.

But you have rights, even in a criminal situation! Massachusetts General Law 140 Section 129D provides an avenue for owners of firearms to have a say in how their possessions are handled after surrender or confiscation. To quote: "Such person, or his legal representative, shall have the right, at any time up to one year after said delivery or surrender, to transfer such firearms, rifles, shotguns and machine guns and ammunition to any licensed dealer or any other person legally permitted to purchase or take possession of such firearms". The Licensing Authority then has ten days to produce the guns to be transferred.

For some people, a Bonded Firearms Warehouse can be your best option, since they will take care of

your belongings until you're able to get them back, or end up needing to dispose of them for failure to attain a LTC or FID. If you can't get them back, the warehouse will help you transfer them to an appropriate dealer or person, or help you find the highest bidder and send a portion of the proceeds back to you.

As long as you're prepared ahead of time, you won't have to scramble to find a good warehouse or provide proof of ownership. Start with a form provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF P 3312.8) that you can use to document all firearms in your possession. That includes ones that you no longer have a receipt for—like an old rifle from your grandfather, or a gun you've had for so many years that you no longer have the bill of sale. Include as much detail about each firearm as you can, and take pictures of them. If you have receipts, grab those, too. Then, put everything in a folder and call it your Personal Firearms Record Book and store it separately from the actual firearms listed.

When it comes to getting your possessions back, that kind of documentation can help a great deal. It isn't guaranteed to work as proof of ownership, but it shows that you put in the effort and might score you some brownie points. It also shows that you have had possession of the firearms for a defined period of time.

Preparation and knowledge are the keys to preserving the value and ownership of your personal property. And don't worry—if you're currently trying to get your guns back and it's been less than a year since confiscation or surrender, you can still transfer them to a licensed storage location you trust!

Consolidated Firearm Services of Hudson, MA provides the firearm storage you need. We are bonded, licensed, and insured to store firearms in Massachusetts. No matter what your storage needs, be it for a week or a year, we have packages that protect your guns and your investment. We're also a full-service firearms repair center, and if you end up needing to dispose of your firearms, we can transfer, sell, or auction them for you in a cost effective way that puts money back in your wallet.

If you're in need of a plan for your own firearms, we'll send you our Bonded Firearm Storage & Ownership package free of charge! Simply email md@firearmsservice.com with your name and mailing address. This package contains a sample letter of instruction that you can present to a Licensing Authority in the event your firearms are surrendered or confiscated. The package also contains ATF publication P 3312.8 and a copy of MGL 140 Section 129D.

Dog Days of Summer Fundraiser - Winner!

2015 Dog Days of Summer Fundraiser

Support GOAL & You Might Win A Home Defense Kit

Paul B. from South Easton, MA is the lucky winner of the home defense prize package!

Congratulations to Paul, the lucky winner of our Dog Days prize package! Paul was thrilled to receive his prize! We would like to thank everyone who made a donation and helped us protect & defend our Second Amendment freedom in MA.

Look for information about our next raffle, the Lucky 20 in this issue, starting on page one with an order form on page 10.

Thank you again for supporting our efforts to protect & restore Second Amendment Freedom in MA!

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