

IMPORTANT NOTICE

DATE: June 1, 2005

TO: Class "A" Private Investigative Agencies
Class "B" Security Agencies
Class "DS" Security Officer Schools or Training Facilities
Class "K" Firearms Instructors

FROM: Gene Bryan, Director, Division of Licensing

SUBJECT: Upcoming Changes in the Law Governing Statewide Firearm Licenses

I am writing today to inform you of two important changes made during the 2005 legislative session that will affect individuals who currently hold a Class "G" Statewide Firearm license and those who may apply for those licenses in the future.

First, effective July 1, 2005, any licensee who holds a Class "G" Statewide Firearm License may carry (when qualified and authorized by his or her employer) a .38 caliber revolver, a .380 caliber or 9 mm semiautomatic pistol, or a .357 caliber revolver with .38 caliber ammunition while performing official duties. Employers of Class "CC," "D," "M," and "MB" licensees (private investigator interns, security officers, and managers of private investigative/security agencies, respectively) will no longer have to obtain a firearms waiver from the Division of Licensing in order for their employees to carry a .380 or 9 mm semiautomatic pistol. However, those employers who still have a need for properly licensed employees to carry shotguns or other firearms for highly specialized job duties will still need to obtain a firearms waiver.

Two key restrictions contained in Section 493.6115(6), Florida Statutes, will continue to apply:

1. No licensee may carry more than two firearms while performing regulated duties.
2. A Class "G" licensee may carry only the type and caliber of firearm that he or she is qualified to carry. This restriction is very important. A Class "G" licensee who has previously qualified with only a .38 or a .357 caliber revolver will not simply be able to begin carrying a semiautomatic pistol under the new law. That licensee will need to obtain 4 hours training from a Class "K" Firearms Instructor and submit a new Certificate of Firearms Proficiency (form DACS-16005) to the Division in order to carry the semiautomatic pistol. The Certificate of Firearms Proficiency can be submitted at any time; the licensee does not have to wait until time of license renewal.

Second, effective July 1, 2005, physician assistants and advanced registered nurse practitioners will be authorized to make a determination as to whether an applicant for a Class "G" Statewide Firearm License is physically fit to carry a firearm while on the job. Up until this time, only a licensed physician could make that determination.

I hope I have adequately explained the changes to the law affecting current holders and future applicants for the Class "G" Statewide Firearm License. If you have any questions, please call our Public Inquiry Section at (850) 245-5691 or the Regional Office nearest you.

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