



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

## State Issues Assault Weapon Certificates of Possession

May 19, 2023

On June 30, 2022, Gov. Carney signed into law the Delaware Lethal Firearms Safety Act of 2022 prohibiting the manufacture, sale, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, receipt, possession, or transport of assault weapons in Delaware, subject to certain exceptions. One such exception to the Act's ban is for individuals who lawfully possessed, or who had completed a purchase of, the weapon prior to June 30, 2022. The Act requires that the Department of Safety and Homeland Security ("DSHS") issue certificates of possession to individuals who meet this exception. Individuals lawfully possessing an assault weapon pursuant to this exception to the ban are not required to request a certificate of possession, but the Act provides that the certificates of possession constitute "conclusive evidence" that a person lawfully possessed or had completed a purchase of an assault weapon before June 30, 2022, and is entitled to possess and transport the weapon on or after that date.

DSHS will offer certificates of possession to Delaware residents at the locations and on the dates below.

<b>Saturday, May 27, 2023</b> <b>Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b>	<b><u>New Castle County</u></b> Delaware State Police - Troop 2 100 Lagrange Avenue, Newark, DE 19702
<b>Saturday, June 3, 2023</b> <b>Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b>	<b><u>Sussex County</u></b> Delaware State Police - Troop 7 19444 Mulberry Knoll Road, Lewes, DE 19958
<b>Saturday, June 10, 2023</b> <b>Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b>	<b><u>Kent County</u></b> DSP State Bureau of Identification 600 Bay Road, Suite 1B, Dover, DE, 19901

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

To receive a certificate of possession, residents must present the following documentation:

- A valid Delaware driver's license, Delaware identification card, or United States passport.
- A dated bill of sale, receipt of purchase, or record of transfer from a licensed firearms dealer for weapons that were purchased that reflect a completed sale or possession prior to June 30, 2022.
- For inherited weapons, a will or other documentation substantiating that the weapon was received through inheritance.
- DSHS will not maintain any record of the issuance of the certificate, as required by the Act.
- **Residents must bring the weapons for which the certificate of possession is sought, but all weapons must be unloaded and left secured in their vehicles. Residents must enter the buildings unarmed.**

Residents are encouraged to review [83 Del. Laws, c. 328, § 1](#) for more information the Act. For questions, residents can call (302) 744-2680 or send an email to: [DEFirearmSafetyAct2022@delaware.gov](mailto:DEFirearmSafetyAct2022@delaware.gov)