

## **Where to Begin**

### **Do You Need A Gun?**

Only you can answer this question. For some of us, this is a difficult question to ask ourselves because it means facing our vulnerabilities. We spend too much time living in denial that "people are generally good" and "I live in a safe neighborhood" or even "I'm always aware, I can prevent something from happening." None of these statements are completely true.

### **Could You Use A Gun?**

Your choice to own and carry a firearm for self-defense says that you are willing to use lethal force if it is necessary to save your life or the lives of your loved ones. This is a very serious statement that has very serious ramifications.

You must fully consider the following questions:

1. Do I believe there are circumstances that make it acceptable to take another person's life?
2. Could I really aim my firearm at another person and pull the trigger?

If you cannot answer "yes" to both of these questions, you are not ready to carry a firearm for personal protection.

### **Concealed Carry**

Once you have made the decision to carry a firearm, there is only one thing that is not an option. That thing is carrying a firearm unholstered. Whether you carry in your pocket, in a purse or in your belt, your firearm must be holstered and the trigger covered.

There are some challenges to comfortably and safely carrying a firearm. Our clothing and our body types cause most of the challenges. Carrying on our body is the most preferred, safest and best way to carry. As the firearm is on your body, it is easily accessible to you and limits the ability of someone to be able to get access to it.

If you are not comfortable wearing your firearm – YOU WON'T! The firearm MUST be the right size: for your hand and your body. The holster must secure the firearm to your body safely and comfortably. The clothing you wear must cover the firearm regardless of position. These things work together for a safe and complete conceal and carry system.

## **Concealed Carry vs. Open Carry**

- Both methods are legal in Louisiana.
- Concealed carry requires a permit in order to do so legally.
- The Concealed Handgun Permit has a standard financial investment of around \$250.
- Even though Open Carry is legal in the State of Louisiana, individuals have been charged with a variety of misdemeanors from Disturbing the Peace to Inciting a Riot.
- We carry concealed because of the hoplophobia displayed in society today.

## **Concerning Concealed Carry**

We must modify our behavior so that we do not put ourselves or our loved ones in danger. This means that we must carry confidently. There should be no fidgeting, constantly checking for holster position, constantly checking the firearm.

By blending in with society, it gives us the element of surprise when we need it. It also gives the bad guys more potential threats to worry about.

Concealed carry lends itself to being practically armed with minimum inconvenience to all.

## **What Do You Need?**

This somewhat depends on your primary purpose of owning a firearm. Although, there are some essentials all firearm owners should have.

1. Instruction – Quality instruction is necessary under all circumstances. It should come from a trained and experienced professional.
2. Firearm – A quality firearm that you are comfortable with, can handle confidently and that will fit your lifestyle.
3. Safe or Effective Locking Device – It is your responsibility to prevent unauthorized/untrained individuals from gaining access to the firearm.
4. Cleaning Kit – The care of the firearm is directly related to the performance. Regular maintenance is extremely important.
5. Eye and Ear Protection – These are absolutely necessary when you practice.
6. Ammunition – You will need to have quality ammunition for practice and for self-defense.
7. Holster – Whether or not you carry your firearm for self-defense, a holster that covers the trigger could prevent accidental firing at the range.
8. Business Card of a Good Attorney – It is a good idea to have a conversation with or identify an attorney that you can call in the event you ever have to

use your firearm to defend yourself. Carry the card on you at all times along with your CHP.

### **Other Items to Be Considered**

1. Range Bag – These allow you to carry everything you need to practice and keep it organized.
2. Speed loader/Magazine Pouch with extra Magazines – To be prepared, having the ability to have additional ammunition available is a serious consideration.
3. Dummy Rounds – For dry practice. These give you a chance to practice safely. They also allow you to practice stoppages while shooting at the range.



**HOSS Firearm Training**