



**Baltimore County Sheriff's Office  
Towson, Maryland**

**Sheriff  
R. Jay Fisher**

**General Order**

<b>Subject: Firearms</b>	<b>Effective Date 3/15/11</b>	<b>Number B-9</b>
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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the training and carrying of firearms while on and off-duty.

**Contents:**

- I. Definitions**
- II. Policy**
- III. Duty Weapons**
- IV. Off-Duty Weapons**
- V. LEOSA**
- VI. Member Responsibilities**

**I. Definitions**

- A. Duty Handgun** – The current pistol issued to sworn members of the Office and carried while in an on-duty status.
- B. Off-Duty Handgun** - A privately owned semi-automatic pistol or revolver that conforms to the policy contained herein and may be carried while off-duty and/or when working approved secondary employment.
- C. Level 1 Holster** – A holster that requires a person to negotiate a security device prior to drawing the weapon, i.e. a thumb snap.

**II. Policy**

It is the policy of the Baltimore County Sheriff's Office to comply with all regulations promulgated by the Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission (MPCTC) regarding training and qualification with duty and off-duty weapons. Additionally, it is the policy of this Office to allow sworn members to carry personally owned weapons while off-duty provided that he/she meet the criteria outlined in this General Order.

**III. Duty Weapons**

A sworn member may only carry and/or utilize the below listed firearms while on-duty.

- A.** The standard semi-automatic pistol issued to sworn members of the Baltimore County Sheriff's Office.

**Firearms**  
**General Order B-9**

1. No other pistol may be carried by members while on-duty.
  2. Only Office issued ammunition is to be utilized in the duty pistol, with the exception of practice at the range or an Office approved firearms competition.
  3. Members shall carry his/her Office issued pistol with a round chambered while on-duty.
- B.** The Office issued 12-gauge pump shotgun.
1. The use of the shotgun is restricted to those sworn members who have successfully completed the required training and annual qualification.
  2. Members anticipating confronting armed subjects in HIGH-RISK situations may request permission to carry a shotgun from his/her supervisor. If the supervisor concurs, he/she must obtain permission from a supervisor, the rank of lieutenant or above. After business hours the member/supervisor is to contact the Night Commander for authorization.
  3. If the supervisor agrees that the utilization of the shotgun is warranted, the supervisor must confirm that the member has qualified with the shotgun by checking the qualification roster.
  4. Shotguns must be *secured in a case within a locked vehicle trunk*. Whenever a shotgun is transported, the chamber must be empty; the magazine must be loaded with four (4) rounds, the trigger pulled and the safety OFF.

**IV. Off-Duty Weapons**

A sworn member may carry a personally owned firearm while off-duty if the following criteria are met.

- A.** The firearm must be a semi-automatic pistol in either .380, 9mm, .40 or .45 caliber.
- B.** If a member was originally trained by a Maryland law enforcement agency with a revolver and carried same as their duty weapon, he/she may carry a .38-caliber revolver. This policy is per MPCTC guidelines. A member may qualify with a .357 magnum revolver but may only carry .38-caliber ammunition in it.
- C.** The weapon, its holster (**level 1 minimum**) and ammunition must be provided to the Chief Firearms Instructor for inspection and approval prior to qualification. A belt holster must be used for qualification. Ammunition used for qualification must be of the same type (**street loads**) as carried while off-duty. The Chief Firearms Instructor has the authority to deny the member permission to qualify

**Firearms**  
**General Order B-9**

with a firearm if he/she deems any of the above items inappropriate or unsafe for use by a member of this Office.

- D. The sworn member must demonstrate his/her proficiency with and knowledge of the firearm to the Chief Firearms Instructor or his/her designee before the member will be allowed to qualify with the firearm.
- E. Utilizing the approved belt holster and ammunition the member must successfully qualify with the off-duty weapon on a yearly basis. The member must qualify at least once annually with the off-duty firearm even if the make and model are identical to the on-duty weapon.
- F. Members carrying firearms while off-duty must have his/her weapon concealed at all times and have on his/her person his/her badge and credentials to identify themselves as a Deputy Sheriff.
- G. Members carrying firearms while off-duty shall **NOT** be under the influence of intoxicating or hallucinatory substances.
- H. Members are prohibited from working non-uniformed secondary employment locations where the employer requires the member to use his/her Office issued pistol. Approved uniformed secondary employment locations are exempted. Members may however, utilize his/her Office issued pistol, if the employer does not require it and the work site is within Baltimore County.
- I. Members may only qualify with one off-duty weapon.

**V. The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (LEOSA)**

Current federal law now exempts qualified current and retired law enforcement officers from state laws prohibiting the carry of a concealed firearm. Qualified law enforcement officers are permitted to carry a concealed firearm in any of the fifty states and the District of Columbia.

- A. A current qualified law enforcement officer means an employee of a government agency who meets the following requirements:
  - 1. Authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law and has statutory powers of arrest; and
  - 2. Authorized by the agency to carry a firearm; and
  - 3. Not the subject of any disciplinary action by the agency which could result in suspension or loss of police powers; and

**Firearms**  
**General Order B-9**

4. Meet standards, if any, established by the agency which require the employee to regularly qualify in the use of a firearm; and
5. Not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance; and
6. Not prohibited by Federal law from receiving a firearm; and
7. Must carry a photographic identification card issued by the agency.

**B.** The procedures for sworn members are as follows:

1. The member may carry his/her Office issued pistol or an approved off-duty firearm.
2. The member must carry his/her badge and credentials.
3. The member's firearms qualification for the weapon must be current.
4. Members who carry a firearm out of State have no police powers and will be subject to Federal, State, and Local Laws, which may prohibit the carrying of a firearm on certain public or private property. Members should check with local law enforcement before carrying a firearm.
5. Members are reminded that the Baltimore County Sheriff's Office is not liable civilly for any actions taken by a member in another state.
6. Members must be in compliance with **Section VI. Member Responsibilities, Subsections A and B** of this directive.

**VI. Member Responsibilities**

- A. Members who have been served with any Interim, Temporary, or a Final Protection or Peace Order must notify a supervisor immediately and not wait until his/her next scheduled workday. Members shall not carry a firearm if said order has been issued.
- B. Members who have had his/her police powers suspended shall not carry a firearm.
- C. Office issued weapons may be used only for law enforcement purposes and other related activities such as private range practice, and office approved firearms competition. **The use of re-loaded ammunition is forbidden.** Members may not use any office issued weapon for hunting or any other activity without first having received written permission from the Sheriff or his/her designee.

**Firearms**  
**General Order B-9**

- D. *Maryland Code, Criminal Law, § 4-104, Child's Access to Firearms, provides that a person may not store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised child (under age 16) would gain access to the firearm. Members must ensure that he/she maintain safe and proper storage of all Office firearms issued to them as well as personally owned firearms.*

*All firearms and ammunition not under the immediate control of the member must be stored in a secure location. Methods for safe and proper storage could include:*

1. *Securing the weapon with a gun/trigger lock,*
  2. *Securing the weapon in a gun safe or lock box.*
  3. *Weapons and ammunition should be stored separately.*
- E. Members must keep all authorized weapons clean, free of rust, and in proper working condition.
- F. While in the Sheriff's Office, members must use a gun box each time he/she load and unload his/her weapons, including during inspections.
- G. Members are prohibited from making any modifications, repairs, or adding any accessories to any issued or authorized weapon without the prior approval of the Chief Firearms Instructor.
- H. No person, other than the Chief Firearms Instructor or his/her designee is authorized to repair Office issued weapons. When an issued weapon is in need of repair, the member must take the weapon to the Chief Firearms Instructor. If the weapon cannot be repaired immediately, it must be replaced with a spare weapon from the Armory.

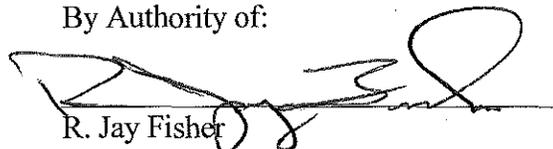
**Rescissions**

Remove from manuals/files and rescind:  
Special Order 92-26, Off-Duty Weapons Policy, dated 9/30/1992  
General Order B-9, Firearms, dated 11/1/10  
General Order B-9 Firearms, Amended, dated 11/19/10

**Distribution**

Sworn Members

By Authority of:

  
R. Jay Fisher  
Sheriff

**BALTIMORE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**WEAPONS REQUEST AND REGISTRATION FORM FOR OFF-DUTY WEAPON**

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*IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, THE BELOW WEAPON, PRIVATELY OWNED BY \_\_\_\_\_ A SWORN MEMBER OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS SUBMITTED TO THE AGENCY FOR INSPECTION:*

<b>MAKE</b>		<b>SERIAL #</b>	
<b>MODEL</b>		<b>CALIBER</b>	
<b>AMMO MAKE</b>		<b>WEIGHT/TYPE</b>	

**THE ABOVE DESCRIBED WEAPON HAS BEEN CHECKED FOR PROPER FUNCTION AND COMPLIANCE WITH AFORESAID REGULATIONS.**

\_\_\_\_\_**APPROVED**\_\_\_\_\_ **DATE**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_**NCIC CHECK**\_\_\_\_\_ **DATE**\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_**DISAPPROVED/REASON**\_\_\_\_\_

**THE ABOVE DEPUTY SHERIFF HAS QUALIFIED WITH SAID WEAPON IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL BALTIMORE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REGULATIONS.**

**DATE**\_\_\_\_\_ **SCORE D.L.**\_\_\_\_\_ **L.L.**\_\_\_\_\_ **INSTRUCTOR**\_\_\_\_\_

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*IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL RULES, REGULATIONS AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, I \_\_\_\_\_ REQUEST APPROVAL TO CARRY THE ABOVE DESCRIBED WEAPON OFF-DUTY.*

**APPROVED**\_\_\_\_\_ **DISAPPROVED/REASON**\_\_\_\_\_ **DATE**\_\_\_\_\_

**SHERIFF**\_\_\_\_\_ **OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**