



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives**

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Washington, DC 20226

[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

**OPEN LETTER TO ALL OHIO FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES**

The purpose of this open letter is to advise you of an important change to the procedure you may follow to comply with the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Brady Act), 18 U.S.C. § 922(t), when transferring a firearm to an unlicensed person.

The permanent provisions of the Brady Act took effect on November 30, 1998. The Brady Act, codified at 18 U.S.C. § 922(t) generally requires Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) to initiate a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) background check before transferring a firearm to an unlicensed person. However, the Brady Act contains exceptions to the NICS check requirement, including an exception for holders of certain State permits to possess, carry, or acquire firearms. The law and implementing regulations provide that permits issued within the past 5 years may qualify as alternatives to the NICS check if certain other requirements are satisfied. Most importantly, the authority issuing the permit must conduct a NICS background check and must deny a permit to anyone prohibited from possessing firearms under Federal, State, or local law.

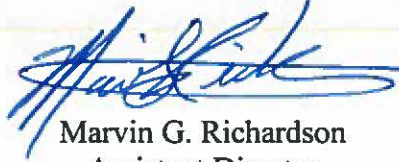
The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reviewed Ohio's concealed handgun license and has determined that the license qualifies as an alternative to the background check requirement. Please be advised that only licenses issued pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2923.125 on or after March 23, 2015, qualify as alternatives to the background check. If an unlicensed person presents a concealed handgun license issued prior to March 23, 2015, the FFL must conduct a background check prior to transferring the firearm.

If you transfer a firearm to an unlicensed person pursuant to the permit alternative, you must comply with the following requirements:

1. Have the transferee complete and sign ATF Form 4473, Firearms Transaction Record.
2. Verify the identity of the transferee through a Government-issued photo identification (for example, a driver's license).
3. Verify that the concealed handgun license was issued pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2923.125 on or after March 23, 2015, and within the past 5 years by the State in which the transfer is to occur, and that the license has not expired under State law.

4. Either retain a copy of the transferee's license and attach it to the Form 4473, or record on the Form 4473 any identifying number from the license, the date of issuance, and the expiration date of the license.

If you have any questions about Ohio's concealed handgun license qualifying as an alternative to the NICS check, please call ATF's Firearms Industry Programs Branch at (202) 648-7190.



Marvin G. Richardson  
Assistant Director  
Enforcement Programs and Services