

Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act Policy

207.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the legal authority for retired and former law enforcement officers meeting certain criteria to carry concealed weapons and to provide guidelines associated with the issuance of a firearms qualification certificate to a qualified former Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office deputy (Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act Improvements Act of 2010 (LEOSA), 18 USC § 926C; Wis. Stat. § 175.48 et seq.; Wis. Stat. § 941.23).

207.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Certification card - A card complying with Wis. Stat. § 175.49 indicating:

- The card holder has met the standards for qualification established by the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB).
- The qualification was conducted by a certified LESB firearms instructor.
- The type of firearm the qualified former law enforcement officer is certified to carry.
- The date of the qualification and an expiration date of the certification (12 months later).
- A statement that the issued person meets the criteria of a qualified former law enforcement officer under Wis. Stat. § 175.49.
- The qualified former law enforcement officer's full name, birth date, residence address, photograph, physical description (including sex, height and eye color), and the name of our state.
- A statement that the certification card does not confer any law enforcement authority on the certification card holder and does not make the holder an employee or agent of this department.

The certification card may not contain the cardholder's social security number.

Proof of qualification - State-approved documentation evidencing a person has successfully completed a handgun qualification course as adopted by the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) and conducted by a firearms instructor that is LESB-certified.

Qualified former law enforcement officer - An individual who meets the criteria of Wis. Stat. § 175.49 in that he/she:

- Separated from this agency in good standing as a law enforcement officer.
- Before such separation, was authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or incarceration of a person for any violation of law and had statutory powers of arrest while serving as a law enforcement officer.
- Before such separation, had regular employment as a law enforcement officer for a total of 10 years or more or, if employed as a law enforcement officer for less than

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

Policy Manual

Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act Policy

10 years, separated from service after any applicable probationary period due to a service-connected disability as determined by the Agency.

- Has not been disqualified to be a law enforcement officer for reasons related to mental health.
- Has not entered into an agreement upon separation from the Agency acknowledging that he/she is not qualified to receive a firearm qualification certificate for reasons related to mental health.
- Is not prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm.
- Resides in Wisconsin.

207.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office to facilitate compliance with federal and state law by providing a certification card when appropriate.

207.3 CERTIFICATION CARD

If a qualified former law enforcement officer who was employed by this agency provides the appropriate proof of qualification, the Agency shall provide him/her with a certification card (Wis. Stat. § 175.49).

Prior to issuance of the certificate, the Agency will conduct criminal and local agency background checks, including a check for convictions, wants or warrants, and any active court order (TIME/NCIC), to determine if the applicant is prohibited by state or federal law to possess or carry firearms, and will ensure that all other federal and state statutory requirements, including those related to firearms qualification, are met.

207.3.1 FEES

The Agency may charge a fee to verify eligibility for a certification card or for the renewal of a certification card. The fee will not exceed the costs the agency incurs in verifying eligibility or for issuing or renewing a certification card (Wis. Stat. § 175.49).

207.3.2 CARD REVOCATION

If the Agency becomes aware that a person who was issued a certification card no longer meets all of the requirements for the card, the Agency will send a letter to the cardholder indicating that he/she is no longer authorized to possess the card, and may not be authorized under authority of state law to carry a concealed weapon as a former law enforcement officer. The Agency will also request that the card be returned to the agency within a specified period of time. If the card is not returned, the Agency should consult with its attorney to determine what further action, if any, should be taken.

207.4 AUTHORITY TO CARRY CONCEALED FIREARM

Qualified former law enforcement officers who meet the applicable requirements and who carry a current certification card may be authorized to carry a concealed firearm in Wisconsin and other states (18 USC § 926C; Wis. Stat. § 941.23).

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

Policy Manual

Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act Policy

However, it is the sole responsibility of qualified former law enforcement officers who have been issued an identification card or certification card to be familiar with and follow all related local, state and federal firearm laws, including:

- (a) The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Improvements Act of 2010 (18 USC § 926C)
- (b) State of Wisconsin concealed weapon laws (Wis. Stat. § 175.48; Wis. Stat. § 175.49; Wis. Stat. § 941.23)
- (c) Self-defense and defense of others (Wis. Stat. § 939.48)
- (d) Defense of property and protection against retail theft (Wis. Stat. § 939.49)
- (e) Endangering the safety of others by use of a firearm (Wis. Stat. § 941.20)
- (f) Carrying a firearm in a public building (Wis. Stat. § 941.235)
- (g) Carrying a firearm where alcohol beverages are sold and consumed (Wis. Stat. § 941.237; Wis. Stat. § 941.23; 18 USC § 926C).

In determining whether a former law enforcement officer is legally carrying a concealed firearm, deputies should determine whether the person may be authorized under either federal law or state law, or both, to carry the concealed weapon.

207.5 PROHIBITION

No former law enforcement officer may be certified to carry a machine gun, a firearm silencer or a destructive device as defined in 18 USC § 926C and related statutes.

207.6 IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The Agency will not require an officer to relinquish his/her photographic identification card when the officer separates from service with the Wisconsin law enforcement agency unless at least one of the criteria outlined in Wis. Stat. § 175.48(2) applies.