



Seattle Police Department Policy Manual



9.060 – Firearms

Original Effective Date: 03/01/2022

Revised Effective Date: 11/01/2023

Revised Effective Date: 10/15/2025

This policy applies to all employees who are required to carry a firearm in the course of their duties.

9.060-POL

1. Sworn Employees Acting in an Official Capacity as a Seattle Police Officer Will Carry a Department-Authorized Firearm and Will Qualify with it Annually

While on duty, and during [off-duty employment](#) in uniform as Seattle Police Officers, sworn employees will carry a primary duty firearm that meets the firearm specifications listed in the [Equipment Reference Catalog \(ERC\)](#) or that has been authorized as a specialty firearm by the employee's bureau chief.

Exception: Sworn employees who currently deploy a department-issued revolver may continue to carry it as their primary duty firearm.

Exception: Sworn employees are not required to be armed during administrative, non-enforcement duties or in areas where firearms are prohibited such as weapons-free training zones, jails, prisons, etc.

The department will not require sworn employees to work without a firearm except as provided by their collective bargaining agreement.

While off-duty and not acting as a Seattle Police Officer, sworn employees may choose whether to be armed. If armed while off-duty under the authority of the Seattle Police Department, sworn employees will only carry department-authorized firearms as listed in the ERC.

Sworn employees armed while off-duty with a firearm that is not department-authorized will comply with all laws related to the possession and carrying of firearms.

(See manual section [9.065 – Firearms Qualifications](#))

2. DACA Recipients May Carry a Firearm for Law Enforcement Purposes Only

The firearm will not be possessed or used for non-law enforcement related purposes.

Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

Specifically, this policy does not allow for an officer in the United States pursuant to DACA to possess or use a firearm other than in the performance of their official duties or for any other law enforcement purposes in a law enforcement capacity, such as off-duty employment. The policy does not allow for the conversion of a firearm for personal use.

DACA recipients employed as sworn employees will carry a department-issued firearm when on-duty and when off-duty in uniform as a Seattle Police Officer.

DACA recipients employed as sworn employees may be in physical possession of the firearm while on duty enroute to/from on-duty or off-duty assignments requiring a police commission but may not carry or use the firearm off-duty except for authorized law enforcement purposes. At all other times, the department-issued firearm must be stored securely at the end of each shift at a department facility and stored in compliance with all applicable state, local, and federal laws.

Note: Nothing in this policy creates an exception to any other departmental policy concerning firearms.

3. Sworn Employees Will Carry Department-Issued Identification While Armed

Sworn employees will carry either their department-issued commission card and/or badge when armed under the authority of the Seattle Police Department.

Exception: Sworn employees working undercover are exempt from this requirement.

4. Sworn Employees Will Carry Reloads for Firearms

Sworn employees in uniform will carry a minimum of two (2) reloads for their primary sidearm.

Plainclothes sworn employees will carry a minimum of one (1) reload.

Undercover sworn employees have discretion on the number of reloads based on the operation.

The Firearms Training Section recommends that sworn employees load pistol and rifle magazines one (1) to two (2) rounds below the magazine's maximum round capacity to facilitate in-battery reloads (tactical reloads).

5. Sworn Employees Will Not Modify Any Department-Authorized Firearms Without Approval

Sworn employees will not modify firearms and magazines that are owned or authorized by the department from factory stock condition. Only the Firearms Training Section may make modifications.

Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

For authorization to use weapon mounted lights and red dot sights along with the brands/models permitted for department-authorized firearms, refer to the [ERC](#).

6. Sworn Employees will Store Department-Authorized Firearms Properly

Sworn employees are responsible for taking reasonable precautions to ensure that their department-authorized firearms are safely stored. Sworn employees will store department-authorized firearms in such a manner as to prevent loss or access to prohibited or unauthorized persons.

Note: Per [RCW 9.41.010\(39\)](#), safely storing firearms means the act of securing a firearm in a locked box, gun safe, or other secure locked storage space that is designed to prevent unauthorized use or discharge of a firearm.

7. All Sworn Employees May Apply for Assignment to the Rifle Program

Sworn employees must complete probation prior to assignment to the Rifle Program.

To be in the Rifle Program, sworn employees must successfully do the following:

- Complete the Patrol Rifle School, and
- Complete bi-annual training, and
- Pass all qualifications.

Entrance into Rifle School follows the selection process outlined in 9.060-PRO-1.

9.060-PRO-1 Patrol Rifle Program Selection

Firearms Training Section (FTS)

1. **Makes** an announcement via internal email regarding an upcoming rifle school.

Sworn Employee

2. **Submits** a memorandum to their precinct/section captain for admission into the school.

Precinct/Section Captain

3. **Submits** a ranked list of sworn employees to the FTS.

Firearms Training Section

Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

4. **Notifies** selected sworn employees of training dates and times for the school.