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Minor's Permit

Note: This information sheet does not constitute legal advice and is for general information purposes only. Applicants and licensees are required to understand and comply with the *Firearms Act 1996* ("the Act") and associated Regulations, which are available on the Tasmanian legislation website – www.legislation.tas.gov.au. This document was prepared in March 2023 based on the relevant legislation at that time.

General information:

- A 'minor's permit' allows a person who is aged between 12 and 18 years to possess or use a firearm under supervision.
- A minor's permit expires on the day the minor turns 18.
- A minor's permit does not allow the holder to acquire or purchase a firearm.
- A minor is not allowed to acquire or purchase a firearm.
- In order to shoot, a minor may borrow a firearm from a licence holder, a Club or Range.
- If a minor commits an offence under the Act, their parent(s) or guardian is taken to have also committed that offence if they knowingly authorised or permitted the offence.

Minor's permit for ages 12 and 13:

- A minor who is 12 or 13 years old and has been granted a permit can only possess/use a firearm:
 - of the category which is stated on their permit, and
 - under the supervision of a licence holder (or person approved by the Commissioner of Police), and
 - for the purpose of:
 - i. receiving instruction, on an approved range, in the safe use of a firearm, or
 - ii. target shooting on an approved range.

Minors aged 14 and above:

- A minor who is aged 14 years and above and has been granted a permit can only possess/use a firearm:
 - of the category which is stated on their permit, and
 - under the supervision of a person who has held a firearms licence continuously for at least one year (or someone approved by the Commissioner of Police), and
 - for the purpose of:
 - i. receiving instruction in the safe use of a firearm, or
 - ii. target shooting on an approved range.



- A minor aged 14-17 who has passed an **Approved Firearms Safety Course** is not restricted to using a firearm under instruction on an approved range. However, whilst shooting on land which is not an approved range, they must be under the **immediate supervision** of a licence holder who has held that licence continuously for at least one year.

To apply for a minor's permit:

1. Complete a minor's permit application form,
2. Include with the application the written permission from the minor's parent/guardian for the permit to be issued, and
3. Lodge a minor's permit application form at **Service Tasmania**.

The Commissioner (or Delegate) will check the application and determine:

- whether the minor is a fit and proper person (see *Information Sheet 7 Fit & Proper Person*) and
- whether there are any barriers under the Act to the permit being granted.

Evidence of identity at Service Tasmania:

- Service Tasmania will require 100 points of identification (such as Medicare card, letter from school principal etc. Service Tasmania have the full list), including proof of age.

Requirements of permit holders

Under the Act a permit holder must:

- produce their permit for inspection if requested by a police officer,
- state their full name and usual place of residence to a police officer if requested,
- not allow another person to use their permit, and
- not use or possess a firearm otherwise than in accordance with their permit.

Under the Act, any person (which includes a minor) who is in possession of a firearm, firearm part or ammunition must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm, firearm part or ammunition is:

- kept safely,
- is not stolen or lost, and
- does not come into the possession of a person who is not authorised to possess it.

Please note that for any minor shooting in the field, the land owner must give permission for **both** the supervisor and the minor to shoot on their land.



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