

# Registration of Firearms and Unregistered Firearms

**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](http://www.legislation.tas.gov.au). This document was prepared in August 2024 based on the relevant legislation at that time.

The system used by Firearms Services provides information about the type, quantity and movement of firearms in Tasmania. This greatly assists Tasmania Police to protect community safety and aids the recovery and return of lost or stolen firearms.

## Registration information:

- A person must not sell, acquire, possess or use a firearm which is not registered. There are limited exceptions to this.
- The following firearms are not required to be registered:
  - imitation firearms, or
  - firearms which are registered in another State or Territory and are being possessed/used in Tasmania under a 'corresponding licence' (see *Information Sheet 39 Interstate & International Licences – Visitors and Change of Residence*).
- Every firearm which is registered will have a Certificate of Registration.
- If a firearm is registered, then it can be sold by a licensed Firearms Dealer as registered.

## What should you do if you have or come into possession of an unregistered firearm?

Firearms dealers can possess most kinds of unregistered firearms. The first thing you should do is hand the firearm in to a licensed firearms dealer or to Tasmania Police.

Note – there are specific requirements if you inherit an unregistered firearm. Refer to *Information Sheet 12 – Inheriting Firearms*.



Depending on the type of firearm that is surrendered to a dealer, they may be able to arrange for it to be registered and:

- buy it from you, or sell it for you, or
- keep it for safekeeping until you are authorised (licensed) to possess it.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- If you do not know much about firearms and suspect that the firearm may not be safe to handle or was stolen, you should contact police who will collect it.
- Some firearms cannot be registered in Tasmania. If a firearm cannot be registered here then it will not be able to be returned to you or sold.
- If the firearm was stolen, then it will not be able to be returned to you or sold.

#### If you want a firearm returned, you will need to:

- Ensure it is a firearm that can be registered.

*Firearms Services can give advice to you about this.*

- Apply to have the firearm registered.

This involves submitting an application to register a firearm.

A dealer with the appropriate category of licence can assist to facilitate the application process.

- You must also make the firearm available for inspection by Tasmania Police, if asked to do so.
- Apply for a firearms licence of the same category as the firearm (if you do not currently have the category of licence). This involves having a 'genuine reason' to possess firearms. *Refer to Information Sheets 14 to 23.*
- Ensure the firearm can be stored safely, according to category of firearms storage requirements. *Refer to Information Sheets 25 to 28.*

Once the firearm has been registered, and the person is authorised to possess it, it can be collected from the firearms dealer or police.

#### If you do not want the firearm returned to you:

- If you are the owner of the firearm, you can surrender the firearm to a firearms dealer and ask the dealer to:
  - register the firearm and then either:
    - buy it from you, or
    - sell it for you.
- There are some firearms which firearms dealers have to hand in to police (such as prohibited firearms), but there are many which dealers are able to sell on the owner's behalf, even if the owner is not allowed to possess the firearm themselves.
- Any firearm can be handed in to police under the **permanent firearms amnesty** (see *Information Sheet 9 Amnesty & Surrender*). If the person signs a document stating that they forfeit the firearm to Tasmania Police, then this will enable the firearm to be destroyed at no cost to the person that hands it in.
- Most firearms can be handed in to a firearms dealer – just make sure the dealer knows that the firearm is being **surrendered permanently** and the surrendering person does not want it returned to them or sold.



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