



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE LEGAL UPDATE

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This update is published by the Michigan State Police Executive Division. Questions and comments may be directed to MSPLegal@Michigan.gov. Past editions can be found at www.michigan.gov/msp-legal.

VEHICLE CODE

Having an unsigned vehicle registration certificate is no longer illegal

Effective November 19, 2007

Public Act 143 of 2007 amends MCL 257.223 by removing the requirement that vehicle registration certificates be signed. Registration certificates must still be carried by the person in control of a vehicle and be presented to a police officer upon request.

[Public Act 143 of 2007](#)

BACK TO BASICS

Note: The following material does not represent new law. Instead, it is intended to reinforce basic rules of law that police officers frequently apply.

Pistols may only be transported in a vehicle for a "lawful purpose"

The Michigan concealed weapons statute ([MCL 750.227\(2\)](#)) makes it illegal to transport a pistol anywhere in a vehicle unless the person is licensed to carry a concealed pistol. Exceptions can be found in [MCL 750.231a](#), which allows transportation of pistols for a "lawful purpose." A lawful purpose is defined as going to or from any one of the following:

- A hunting or target area
- A place of repair
- Moving goods from a home or business to another home or business
- A law enforcement agency (for a safety inspection or to turn the pistol over to the agency)
- A gun show or place of sale or purchase
- A public shooting facility
- Public land where shooting is legal
- Private property where a pistol may be lawfully used

While this list seems exhaustive, it's worth noting that the statute does not allow a person to transport a pistol in a vehicle simply because they choose to do so. In such cases, the person would be in violation of MCL 750.227.

Also, the statute describes how a pistol must be transported by a person not licensed to carry a concealed pistol. In such cases, a pistol must be carried for a "lawful purpose" and be:

- Unloaded
- In a closed case designed for firearms
- In the trunk (or if the vehicle has no trunk, it must not be readily accessible to the occupants)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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1. Name (first & last)
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NEW WEB ADDRESS

The Legal Resources Unit now has a new, simplified internet address:

www.michigan.gov/msp-legal

The site contains the same information as in the past, including: past editions of the Legal Update, legal research tools, supplements to the Criminal Law and Procedure Manual, and Traffic Law Updates provided by the MSP Traffic Services Section.