

Kentucky State Law  
KY Revised Stat. Ann.

**Chapter 65. General Provisions - Applicable to Counties, Cities and  
Other Local Unit Ordinances and Regulations**

**65.870. Local firearm control ordinances prohibited.** No city, county or urban-county government may occupy any part of the field of regulation of the transfer, ownership, possession, carrying or transportation of firearms, ammunition, or components of firearms or combination thereof.

**Chapter 237. Firearms and Destructive Devices**

**237.060. Definitions for KRS 237.060 to 237.090 and certain other sections.**

The following definitions apply in KRS 237.060 to 237.090 and KRS 197.170, 217A.992, 244.125, 244.990 and 514.110, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) **"Handgun"** means any pistol or revolver originally designed to be fired by the use of a single hand, or any other firearm originally designed to be fired by the use of a single hand.
- (2) **"Firearm"** means any weapon which will expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.
- (3) **"Licensed gun dealer"** means a person who has a federal firearms license and any business license required by a state or local government entity.
- (4) **"Loaded"** with respect to a firearm means:
  - (a) There is ammunition in the chamber of the firearm; or
  - (b) There is ammunition in the cylinder of the firearm; or
  - (c) There is ammunition in the magazine of a firearm, if the magazine is attached to the firearm.
- (5) **"Juvenile"** means a person who has not attained his eighteenth birthday.
- (6) **"Ammunition"** means loaded ammunition designed for use in any firearm.
- (7) **"Armor piercing ammunition"** means a projectile or projectile core which may be used in a handgun and which is constructed entirely (excluding the presence of traces of other substances) from one (1) or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium. **"Armor piercing ammunition"** does not include shotgun shot required by federal or state environmental or game regulations for hunting purposes, a frangible projectile designed for target shooting, a projectile which the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States finds is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes, or any other projectile or projectile core which the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States finds is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes, or any other projectile or projectile core, which the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States finds is intended to be used for industrial purposes, including a charge perforating device.
- (8) **"Flanged ammunition"** means ammunition with a soft lead core and having sharp flanges which are designed to expand on discharge.

**237.070. Prohibition against sale or transfer of firearm to a convicted felon.**

(1) No person shall knowingly sell or transfer a firearm to any person prohibited from possessing it by KRS 527.040.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (1) of this section is guilty of Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Any firearm transferred in violation of this section shall be subject to forfeiture and shall be disposed of pursuant to KRS 237.090.

**237.080. Prohibition against manufacture, sale, delivery, transfer, or importation of armor piercing ammunition - Exceptions.**

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly manufacture, sell, deliver, transfer, or import armor piercing ammunition.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to members of the Armed Forces of the United States or law enforcement officers within the scope of their duties, nor shall it prohibit licensed gun dealers from possessing armor piercing ammunition for the purpose of receiving and transferring it to members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or law enforcement officers for use within the scope of their duties.

(3) A violation of subsection (1) of this section shall be a Class D felony for the first offense and a Class C felony for each subsequent offense.

(4) Any armor piercing ammunition transferred, sold, or offered for sale, in violation of this section is contraband and shall be seized and summarily forfeited to the state and shall be disposed of pursuant to krs 237.090.

**237.090. Disposition of forfeited firearm or ammunition.**

Any firearm or ammunition forfeited pursuant to KRS 237.060 to 237.090 shall, upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be destroyed, sold, or retained as provided in KRS 500.090.

**237.990. Penalties.**

(1) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS 237.030 to 237.050 shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS 237.030 to 237.050, and in so doing uses any destructive device or booby trap device to avoid detection by law enforcement or other government personnel or to avoid theft or detection by any other person, of any controlled substance as set forth in KRS Chapter 218A and held in violation of KRS 218A.140, shall be guilty of a Class C felony.

**Chapter 527. Offenses Relating to Firearms  
and Weapons**

**527.010. Definitions.** The following definitions apply in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires: \* \* \*

(2) **"Deface"** means to remove, deface, cover, alter or destroy the manufacturer's serial number or any other distinguishing number or identification mark.

(4) **"Firearm"** means any weapon which will expel a projectile by the action of an explosive.

(5) **"Handgun"** means any pistol or revolver originally designed to be fired by

the use of a single hand, or any other firearm originally designed to be fired by the use of a single hand.

**527.030. Defacing a firearm.**

(1) A person is guilty of defacing a firearm when he intentionally defaces a firearm.

(2) Defacing a firearm is a Class A misdemeanor.

**527.040. Possession of firearm by a convicted felon -- Exceptions.**

(1) A person is guilty of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon when he possesses, manufactures, or transports a firearm when he has been convicted of a felony, as defined by the laws of the jurisdiction in which he was convicted, in any state or federal court and has not:

(a) Been granted a full pardon by the Governor or by the President of the United States;

(b) Been granted relief by the United States Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended.

(2) Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon is a Class D felony unless the firearm possessed is a handgun in which case it is a Class C felony.

(3) The provisions of this section apply to any youthful offender convicted of a felony offense under the laws of this Commonwealth. The exception contained in KRS 527.100 prohibit possession of a handgun by a minor shall not apply to this section.

(4) The provisions of this section with respect to handguns, shall apply only to persons convicted after January 1, 1975, and with respect to other firearms, to persons convicted after July 15, 1994.

**527.050. Possession of defaced firearm.**

(1) A person is guilty of possession of a defaced firearm when he knowingly possesses a defaced firearm unless he makes a report to the police or other appropriate government agency of such possession prior to arrest or authorization of a warrant by a court.

(2) Possession of a defaced firearm is a Class A misdemeanor.

**527.060. Forfeiture.** Upon the conviction of any person for the violation of any law of this Commonwealth in which a deadly weapon was used, displayed or unlawfully possessed by such person the court shall order the weapon forfeited to the state and sold, destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with KRS 500.090.

**527.100. - [Possession of a firearm by a minor].**

(1) A person is guilty of possession of a handgun by a minor when, being under the age of eighteen (18) years, he possesses, manufactures, or transports a handgun as defined by KRS 527.010. [ \* \* \* **Contact state authority for exceptions**]. \* \* \*

(3) Possession of a handgun by a minor is a Class A misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class D felony for each subsequent offense.

**527.110. Unlawfully providing handgun to juvenile or permitting juvenile to possess handgun.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawfully providing handgun to a juvenile or per-

mitting a juvenile to possess handgun when he:

**(a)** Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly provides a handgun, with or without remuneration, in violation of KRS 527.040, 527.100 or 600.020 to any person he knows or has reason to believe is under the age of eighteen (18) years; or

**(b)** Is the parent or legal guardian of a juvenile and intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly provides a handgun to the juvenile or permits the juvenile to possess a handgun knowing that there is a substantial risk that the juvenile will use a handgun to commit a felony offense; or, with knowledge that the juvenile has been convicted of a crime of violence as defined in KRS 439.3401 or has been adjudicated a public offender of an offense which would constitute a crime of violence as defined in KRS 439.3401, provides a handgun to that juvenile.

**(2)** Unlawfully providing a handgun to a juvenile or permitting a juvenile to possess a handgun in a Class D felony.