



ST. MARY'S COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Heart. Science. Service.

ABOUT THE GVI PROGRAM

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and St. Mary's County Health Department are committed to preserving a safe, healthy, and strong community for its residents and visitors. To further this commitment, both organizations have partnered together to implement the Group Violence Intervention Strategy (GVI), an evidence-based strategy designed to reduce homicide and firearm-related violence. Through the efforts of this partnership and community collaboration, both organizations remain committed to encouraging and promoting responsible and safe firearm ownership, while also deterring violent crimes perpetuated by groups and firearm violence.

MARYLAND FIREARM LAWS

Criminal Law § 4-204(b): Use of firearm in commission of crime

A person may not use a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, as defined in section 5-101 of the Public Safety Article, or any felony, whether the firearm is operable or inoperable at the time of the crime. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, in addition to any other penalty imposed for the crime of violence or felony, faces a minimum of 5 years incarceration without parole and up to 20 years of incarceration.

Criminal Law § 4-203: Wear, carry, or transport a handgun

Except for a person who is authorized by law to do so, a person may not wear, carry, or transport an unloaded or loaded handgun on their person, on public school property, or in a vehicle. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and faces at least 30 days of incarceration and up to 3 years of incarceration.

Public Safety Article § 5-133(b): Illegal possession of a regulated firearm

A person may not possess a regulated firearm after being convicted of a disqualifying crime (a felony or a misdemeanor that carries a statutory maximum penalty of more than 2 years incarceration). A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and faces up to 5 years of incarceration.

Public Safety Article § 5-133(c): Illegal possession of a regulated firearm (conviction for a crime of violence)

A person may not possess a regulated firearm after being convicted of a crime of violence. A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and faces a minimum of 5 years of incarceration without parole and up to 15 years of incarceration.

Public Safety Article § 5-133(d): Possession of a firearm by a minor

A person under 21 years old may not possess a regulated firearm. A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and faces up to 5 years of incarceration.

In the State of Maryland, an individual at least 16 years old can be charged as an adult with any of the aforementioned criminal violations.

For a full reading of the laws and regulations regarding firearms, please visit Marylandcourts.gov, Code and Rules section.