

Michigan Gun Registration Update (January 2009)

Michigan will no longer require a post-purchase safety inspection of handguns purchased. Prior to this new change, every time a handgun was purchased in Michigan, whether it was a commercial sale or a private sale between two individuals, the purchases had to take the pistol to their local sheriff's department and present it for a "safety inspection". During these inspections, actual checks for safety really never took place. What was accomplished was that the make, model, caliber and serial number of the gun were registered to the purchaser. The state Legislature recognized the hypocrisy of this process and will now trust its citizens to send the correct information regarding the handgun to be registered.

The process will work like this: Now both the Michigan License to Purchase a Pistol and the Pistol Sales Record (the form used for handgun purchasers who possess a Michigan Concealed Pistol License) will become four-part forms rather than three-part forms. The Michigan License to Purchase a Pistol will change in color from green to yellow. When a handgun is purchased, the forms will be filled out as usual and the four forms will be utilized in the following manner; one part will be retained by the seller, one part will be retained by the purchaser, and two parts will be delivered to the purchaser's local sheriff's department. It will be the responsibility of the purchaser to make sure the two copies reach the sheriff's department. The purchaser may do this by hand delivering them or by sending them via first-class mail. (If you mail, I would suggest you send with a return receipt request.) The copy of the sales record retained by the purchaser must be kept and carried any time the purchaser carrying or transporting the firearm the first 30 days following the date of purchase of the firearm. If caught, failure to carry this copy of the sales record for this 30-day period will result in a civil infraction of a \$250 fine and disciplinary action from the county gun board.