

FIREARM CERTIFICATES – NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

1. This form is for use when making an application for the grant, renewal or variation of a firearm certificate. With certain statutory exemptions it is an offence for a person to have in their possession, purchase or to acquire any firearm or ammunition without holding a firearms certificate. The certificate will specify the firearm and ammunition that the holder of the certificate is authorised to possess, purchase or acquire.

2. Article 2 of the Firearms (Jersey) Law 2000 applies to all firearms (including shot guns) and ammunition, except:

- Air weapons designed for use under water and air weapons with a muzzle energy of less than one foot-pound.
- Ammunition for an air weapon
- Shotgun cartridges containing five or more shot, none of which exceeds .23 inch diameter
- Blank cartridges not exceeding one inch in diameter, measured immediately in front of the rim or cannelure at the base of a cartridge.

3. A firearm certificate is granted subject to the conditions prescribed by the Firearms (Jersey) Law 2000 and Orders made there under. A Connetable is empowered to impose additional conditions to those prescribed. It is an offence to fail to comply with any condition of a firearm certificate.

4. When completing the application form the applicant is not permitted to withhold information about a previous conviction.

5. If the applicant is under 17, a parent or guardian must also sign the declaration.

6. When the applicant has completed the form, it must be signed by two referees who are resident in Jersey and who should have known the applicant personally for at least 2 years. (Referees cannot be Police officers, members of the applicant's family or registered firearms dealers.)

7. Where an application is made for the grant or renewal of a firearm certificate, the application must be accompanied by two reference forms completed in ink by the two referees who endorse the application form (see above). There is, however, no requirement for the reference forms to be returned to the Parish Hall with the application form. They may be returned separately. A referee is not required in respect of an application for a variation of a firearm certificate.

8. The referees must also endorse in ink, the back of two of the **three** photographs (one per referee) submitted with any application for the grant or renewal of a firearm certificate, by writing the words "I certify

that this is a current true likeness of.....” and sign with their usual signature and date the likeness was compared. The applicant will also sign in ink on the back of the third photograph with their usual signature.

(See additional notes for referees attached to this document that should be handed to each nominated person prior to the completion of their report).

9. The referee is required to declare that they know of no reason why the applicant should not be permitted to possess a firearm. The referee should therefore be aware that the law requires a Connetable to be satisfied that an applicant can be permitted to possess a firearm and ammunition without any danger to public safety, or the peace, and that the Law prohibits the grant of a certificate to any person who the Connetable had reason to believe is prohibited from possessing a firearm, to be of intemperate habits, unsound mind, or to be for any reason unfit to be entrusted with a firearm. Referees should bear in mind the character, conduct and mental condition of the applicant in so far as they are relevant to these matters. Referees must sign both declarations on the back of the reference form and must also endorse the original application form.

10. The Law also prohibits the possession of firearms for specific periods by persons who have received certain custodial sentences. Under Article 37, any person sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more shall be prohibited for life, and any person sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three months or more (but less than three years) shall be prohibited for a period of five years from the end of their sentence.

11. The application form must be accompanied by the appropriate fee (**£35.00** for renewal and grant and **£15.00** for a variation) and, in the case of an application for the grant or renewal of a certificate, by **three** identical photographs of the applicant. The photographs should be taken full face without a hat and must bear a current true likeness of the applicant. The size of the photographs should be 45mm x 35 mm. They should be printed on normal thin photographic paper and be unmounted.

12. The applicant must post or take the completed form together with the fee and photographs to the Parish Hall. A fee of **£15.00** is payable in respect of a variation when the number of weapons held by virtue of the certificate is increased. There is no fee for a variation to a certificate if the only change is to indicate that the number of weapons held by a firearms holder is to be reduced.

13. Cheques should be made payable to “Parish of.....” (Parish where applicant resides).

14. A firearm certificate is issued by the Connetable who has to satisfy himself that the applicant has shown a good reason for having a

firearm and/or ammunition. The onus is on the applicant to show this good reason.

15. Personal data supplied on this form may be held on computer and verified by reference to information already held on computer.

16. If it is necessary, the application form may be continued on a separate sheet of paper (stating question number). Any additional information shall be closed with the applicant's usual signature and date.

17. Firearm certificates are valid for five years from date of issue or renewal.

NOTES FOR REFEREES:

1. The referee is required to declare that they know of no reason why the applicant should not be permitted to possess a firearm. The referee should therefore be aware that the law requires a Connetable to be satisfied that an applicant can be permitted to possess a firearm and ammunition without danger to public safety, or the peace, and that the Law prohibits the grant of a certificate to any person who the Connetable has reason to believe is prohibited from possessing a firearm, to be of intemperate habits, unsound mind, or for any reason unfit to be trusted with a firearm. Referees should bear in mind the character, conduct and mental condition of the applicant in so far as they are relevant to these matters. Referees must sign both declarations on the back of the reference form and must also endorse the original application form.

2. Each referee must also endorse, in ink, the back of one of the **three** photographs submitted with the application for the grant or renewal of a firearm certificate, by writing the words; 'I certify that this is a current true likeness of.....' And sign with their usual signature and the date the likeness was compared.

3. There is no requirement for the reference form to be returned to the Parish Hall with the application form. They may be returned separately and referees are to note that all information contained within the reference form will be treated in the strictest confidence.