
THE CONCEALED HANDGUN

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P.O. Box 161713 Austin, Tx.
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TCHA 2012 Endorsements

The Texas Concealed Handgun Association endorses the campaigns of two Texas judges.

Justice David Medina is running for reelection to the Texas Supreme Court, Place 4. A former Harris County state district judge, Medina succeeded Wallace B. Jefferson after Jefferson's appointment to be chief justice. Gov. Rick Perry appointed Justice Medina, who was the governor's general counsel since January 2004. For more information about Justice Medina visit http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/court/justice_dmedina.asp.

Justice Elsa Alcalá is a judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, the state's court of last resort for state appeals. She has been a Texas judge for more than 13 years. She was appointed to the court by the Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of the State of Texas. Her appointment was unanimously confirmed by the Texas Senate. For more information visit <http://judgeelsaalcala.com/index.html>.

THE CONCEALED HANDGUN

The Concealed Handgun is published quarterly for the benefit of members to provide news and educational information of mutual interest. The association is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Comments or opinions expressed in by-lined text should not be considered official views of the association, its officers, or directors. Members are invited to submit material for publication to the following mailing address:

George Pena 6873 TX. Hwy 55 Uvalde, TX 78801 or

Newsletter available on-line in color @ www.txchia.org

The Texas Concealed Handgun Association is a membership organization. Its objectives and purposes are: to promote the continuation and improvement of the Texas Concealed Handgun (CHL) Law; represent the standards and concerns of members to the general public, news media, Department of Public Safety and legislators; to promote responsible firearms safety and ownership; to provide current information to members about the laws, lesson plans and topics related to the Concealed Handgun License program; to promote high standards of instruction and training; and to support the right of responsible, law abiding citizens to own, keep and lawfully carry firearms for personal protection.

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Questions And Answers

Larry Arnold



I live in a Property Owner's Association (POA) gated community. We have a couple of meetings coming up where votes will be taken on several contentious issues. Tempers have flared in the past and altercations ensued. This community is also a hunting preserve.

Can we prohibit concealed handguns at landowner meetings of the POA in Texas, if they are held on a common preserve?

The legal section YOUR lawyer can look at is Penal Code 30.06, Trespass by Holder of License to Carry Concealed Handgun. It establishes the procedure for giving CHLs effective notice that the owner or manager of private property prohibits concealed carry by licensees.

Issues for YOUR lawyer:

1. Who “owns or manages” the property you’re talking about? You obviously can’t keep CHLs from carrying on property where they are owners.
2. Is the POA a “government entity” under this section. Government entities can’t use PC 30.06.
3. The 30.06 sign ONLY applies to people with concealed handgun licenses. It will not keep anyone from illegally carrying a handgun into your meeting.

That’s my best legal answer. Two more considerations:

1. Concealed handgun licensees tend to be very peaceful people. They are far less likely to do something that gets them arrested than non-CHLs. In fact, men with CHLs are less likely to be arrested than non-CHL women. See the study at <http://www.txchia.org/sturdevant2000.htm>.
2. On the other hand, many gun owners (and not just CHLs) do take a dim view of what they perceive as “anti-gun” actions, like posting 30.06. You are quite likely to end up with a whole new issue for people to be contentious over.

I wish you good luck in resolving your issues.

I've found your website <http://www.txchia.org/> through a web search. My wife and I both hold a current Texas carry permit. Would it make sense for both to pay for the membership? We would be getting the same information - only twice - that way, correct? What advantage would the membership have?

If all you are looking for is information, then one membership will get you the newsletter, and of course both can come to any meetings. You could have a shootout at the range, high score joins. ;-)
OTOH both joining gets each of you a vote at the meetings, and bragging rights to membership. (In case of a self-defense incident that’s something I’d want the jury to hear.) And you don’t have to choose who joins. We have several husband/wife pairs.

Regardless, welcome to the association.

Had a question and also thinking I need to join your organization.

The question has to do with being able to maintain my CHL despite my having to move from Texas to Chicago due to work. Clearly they don't have anything like this in Illinois to date. Even if they did, I want to be able to retain my CHL based here in Texas. Do you have information about something like this and what i need to do to maintain the CHL? If it means anything, I own 5 acres of land with a house on it in Springtown, TX over near Ft. Worth.

Actually the process to keep your Texas CHL is simple. Go to the DPS CHLS website (http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/chl/chlsindex.htm) and fill out the form to change your address. You can pay the fee with a credit card. You can also download a CHL-70 at http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/chl/forms/index.htm and send it in by mail.

Note that some states, like Colorado, will not accept a non-resident Texas CHL.

Don't forget to register any firearms you take with you and get a FOID card. If it makes a difference, the Illinois State Rifle Association is working on an Illinois CHL, and making some progress. You might consider giving them a hand.

A couple of questions were imposed at my local bank today.

One question: the bank manager said it is illegal to carry a concealed handgun into any bank in Texas. I said only if the bank has the 30.06 rule displayed. A friend of mine said his bank does not have the 30.06 sign and I know of a bank that does not have a sign as it is in a business building.

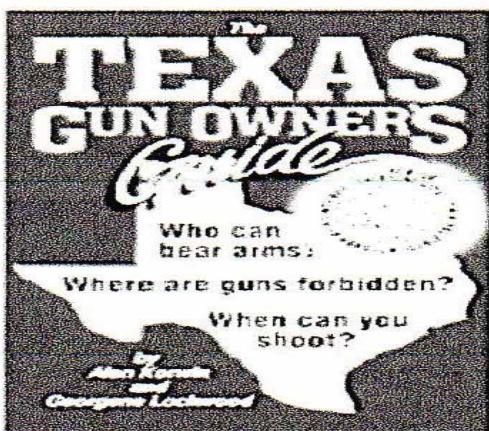
Also the question of placement of the 30.06 rule came into question. The bank had it on the door and I mentioned that the sign should be placed on one of the non-moveable window panes. I mentioned that if someone opened the door for me and obstructed the sign the sign was not really official. Is this true?

There is no Texas law against carrying a legally concealed handgun into a bank, or any other financial institution.

A bank can choose to post a 30.06 sign at the entrances, giving notice that entry with a concealed handgun is prohibited. However, CHLs tend to be very good bank customers. (Peaceful, concerned about security, with disposable income.) The bank can also have a policy prohibiting employees from carrying, but that doesn't affect visiting CHLs.

Back when concealed carry was new in Texas I noticed that none of the national bank chains posted against licensees. One manager told me it was because they had branches in other states with concealed carry, and hadn't had any problems with it.

I'd hate to pay an attorney what it could cost before I could get up on the witness stand and try to convince a jury that I didn't see the sign because someone opened the door. I tend to be careful about checking for signs when I enter a building, particularly for the first time.



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CHILDREN AND GUN SAFETY

By Austin Kelley

In my opinion, people with guns and children have two choices in the manner they handle their children and guns. One seems to be the easy way that doesn't always work, and a more complicated way that worked for me and my children. I don't know if this works all the time; I know it worked with my children, who are in their fifties now.

The easy way is to simply lock up the gun and throw away the key. The problem with this method is some locks work and some don't. (A story in a TV documentary reported that twenty-eight of thirty gun locks malfunctioned.) You may know of the large number of municipalities that gave away gun locks only to have the manufacturer recall the locks.

Forget about hiding the guns. Christmas presents and guns are always found by children.

The biggest problem with the easy way of keeping guns away from children is that it also keeps the gun away from the person who needs it to protect the child. Whatever is done to make the gun *inoperable* for a child also makes it useless to the adult. How much time will you have from the time you know the Bad Guy (BG) is calling to the time you need to fire the weapon? I know that no BG has ever called me to tell me he would be at my house at two a.m., so that I could be ready. After he arrives at my house, I doubt he will be willing to wait for me to jump through several hoops to get my gun ready to use.

This is what I did to keep loaded guns in my home with my children and their friends. It started when they were very young and continues to the present. (Now they teach me as much as I teach them.) First, when my children were very young they had three classes of toys: Class I toys were not shared with anyone — their mother nor I ever touched this toy. Class II toys were shared with their sibling — I have a son and daughter. Class three toys were shared with everyone that came to the house and the whole neighborhood.

My children selected which toys were put into each category. They gave no explanation nor justified their selection. It was what they wanted to do. Dad did not have to explain why his guns were in the class I category either. There were never any mysteries about the guns. NO forbidden fruit! They were there! They were Dad's! They were to be left alone!

My children soon learned that they could trust all members of the family to respect their property (toys). They learned that some possessions are valuable. And I think this led to learning to respect property, their property and the property of others. They would not let their friends play with their own nor their sibling's class I and II toys.

It was natural for Dad's class I toy (guns) to not only be left alone but to be protected from other children in the house. The guns were not hidden, or put out of commission. They could trust me to not bother their class I toys; I trusted them to not play with my class I toy and to protect my toy from their friends.

When the children got older, the guns were moved from class I to class II category and very intense training began. This was not a bad thing. It gave us the opportunity to spend a lot of quality time together learning safety, then how to shoot, and clean their guns. As mentioned above, my children are fifty plus years old and the training still goes on, only this time the ol' man learns as much from them as they learn from me.

Many families that lock or hide their guns from their children have not had a gun accident, but they sure miss a lot of fun times being with their children in a fun atmosphere.



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Hall did not go outside because she didn't know if there were

Your Castle & It's Defense

By

Dan Griffin

Attorney at Law / CHL Instructor

There are a lot of misconceptions about the so called Castle Doctrine and the kind of defense a person may make of the place they call home. This article will help you determine what you may and may not consider as part of your home for the use of deadly force purposes in home defense. Your castle may not include as much as you think it does.

“Home” is a generic word that has little meaning in the law. We usually think of our homes as more than just a single building. The yard surrounding the house, the front porch, the garage, the garden and detached buildings close to the house are all usually thought of as part of our home. However, when defining certain crimes and home defense The Law excludes much of what we usually consider parts of our home. In order to understand how The Law defines your home, you must understand the legal definition of two words – habitation and residence.

Habitation: To qualify as a habitation a structure or vehicle has to be adapted for use as overnight accommodations for human beings. This definition seems to include just about any place you could sleep. That is not quite true.

Residence: A residence is just one of several types of habitations. In order for a habitation to be classified as your residence, you must live in the habitation on a permanent or temporary basis, conduct life's normal activities there such as cooking, eating, and sleeping and if you leave the habitation, you must intend to return to the habitation and resume using it for life's normal activities.

Residential Habitation: This is the real estate The Law considers your Castle and enjoys a limited legal status when it comes to the amount and degree of force you may bring to bear in it's defense. A vehicle, such as a motor home or a travel trailer, can be a residence if properly adapted with overnight accommodations and life's normal activities. In fact, your tent while camping is considered a temporary residence and qualifies as a residential habitation for crime purposes. Most people are surprised to learn that The Law does not consider many parts of what you usually consider your home as part of your residential habitation for defense / protection purposes especially as far as criminal law is concerned.

For example, detached buildings such as workshops, garages, hen houses, pool houses and storage sheds are not part of your residential habitation for purposes of defense. Exterior stairs, unscreened porches and lean-tos are not part of your residential habitation.

In fact, your front, back and side yards are not part of your home for defense purposes either. I know it is heartbreaking that everything you presumed was part of your Castle really is not. However, as you read the remainder of this article please keep this definition of “residential habitation” in mind. Now, let's talk about some specific issues regarding protection of your Castle.

The first misconception that must be cleared up is the concept of trespass. There are two types of trespass – criminal and civil. Understanding the difference can mean the difference between having serious legal problems and legally defending yourself and your home.

Civil Trespass occurs when a person inadvertently comes on to your real property (land) and causes damage to your real property. Your remedy for this type of trespass is a civil law suit, not gunfire or any form of deadly force. That is correct, if you find the town drunk passed out on your lawn or front porch, you cannot shoot him. Notice there are two requirements to this type of trespass – inadvertent entry and damage.

“Inadvertent Entry” is just what it says. The person did not intend to enter on to your property. The legal presumption or rationale for this civil cause of action is that when a person steps on to your property and crushes a single blade of your grass, the value of your property has been diminished. You have a legal right to demand monetary damages for this diminution in your property value. So technically, the town drunk, by lying on your lawn has damaged you and you can sue for damages. Again a reminder, you cannot use deadly force to prevent or seek redress for civil trespass.

Now all you have to do is hire a lawyer, file a suit against the drunk, and conduct very expensive discovery to determine the dollar value of the damages you have suffered as a result of the drunk passing out on your lawn. Once the Court has calculated the amount of your damages and issued a ruling in your favor, you must now go find the drunk and collect your money.

“Criminal Trespass” is very different from civil trespass. Criminal Trespass occurs when a person comes on to your real property with the knowledge they do not have permission to enter your property or with the intent to commit a crime against the property or you. Your remedy for this type of trespass is to file a complaint with a law enforcement agency. If there is sufficient evidence to prosecute a person charges will be filed by the State. It is the State that files the charges and prosecutes the case not you the individual land owner.

If a person is arrested and charged with the crime of Criminal Trespass, they will face a criminal trial and if convicted a fine and/or jail/probation. You as the land owner may not , or maybe even never for that matter

collect any restitution for any damages to your property from a Defendant’s prosecution / conviction. You may however file a civil suit against the same person in order to collect damages.

Don’t confuse the use of force against the taking of your personal property with trespass on your real property. That pickup truck you are so fond of is personal property and you may not shoot the repo man when he comes on your property to take it away. In fact, you are not authorized to use deadly force against anyone anytime to prevent the taking of your personal property except when it is being taken off of your body (robbery).

The second misconception that must be cleared up is the legal difference between home defense and self-defense. “Home Defense” is the defense of your residential habitation from certain Crimes Against Property. “Self-Defense” involves the defense against crimes to your physical person. Now that you are clear on these legal concepts, let’s talk about home defense.

Suffice it to say, you have a right to live in a safe, secure and threat-free home. You have the right to defend your residential habitation with up to and including deadly force in three very limited circumstances – Burglary and Criminal Mischief if committed during night time hours and Arson any time. You do not have to retreat one step before you begin your home defense use of force if you are inside your residential habitation when one of these crimes is about to happen or is the process of happening. Once these crimes have been completed you do not have the legal authority to use deadly force no matter how justified you may feel.

So where can you use deadly force to defend your residential habitation? For all practical purposes, the threshold of the doors and sills of windows to the interior of your residential habitation are where the lawful defense of your castle begins. With very few exceptions, you may only use deadly force to defend your castle once the thresholds of the doors and windows of your residential habitation have been breached.

Also, please forget all this folklore crap about shooting someone and making sure you drag them onto your property or inside your house - two problems with that line of thinking. First, if you move a body, you are committing a crime yourself. It has not been and is not now necessary to engage in such conduct to protect your home. Second, in today’s world of modern forensics, you can’t move a body and not be detected. The last misconception I want to clear up is regarding the use of devices that constitute the use of deadly force and warning signs. Warning signs are iffy legal protection at best. “This Property Protected by 357 Magnum” only tells the bad guys you have guns in the house and invites them to come back when you are not home and steal them.

The long and short of it is, you cannot use signage to give anyone adequate notice you intend to use deadly force to protect your property. The Law requires what is termed “legally sufficient notice”. In general terms, The Law requires that everyone who encounters your sign and looks at it understands the message the sign is intended to convey to the reader. There are a couple of problems with that concept.

Not everyone can read and if they can may not be able to read English. Also, there is no guarantee that whoever reads the sign does not have some sort of physical or mental issue that prevents them from understanding the signage.

All this to say, any sign you want to meet the "legally sufficient notice" signage requirements must be in several languages, large print, simple grammar, and Braille to start with. So, I'm not even going to go into the accessibility issues for the burglar who has mobility issues or needs to touch the sign to read it. Don't depend on signs to give proper notice.

If the signage requirements don't chap you this most likely will. You may not use any device that will cause serious bodily injury or death to an intruder into your residential habitation. Yes that means you cannot wire up the front door knob to 120volts when you go off to work, release your pet rattlesnake into the living room when you go out to dinner or leave your half starved pet Puma to roam the house while you go away for the weekend. You are pretty much restricted to a Klaxon, siren or home security alarm. Your home is very important to your welfare and that of your family. Don't jeopardize it by being ignorant of The Law. Remember – Education is the Best Defense.

USE A LITTLE COMMON SENSE!!!

Dan Griffin is a licensed Texas Attorney at Law, CHL and Hunter Education Instructor who owns and operated the WNS sport Shooting Range in Boerne, Texas. Dan is the author of THE TEXAS CONCEALED HANDGUN PRIMER, Legal Considerations & Practical Advice which can be order from wnsrange.com.



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It's About Fairness

Stop beating your head against the wall. You will never convince some folks that guns are anything except instruments of evil. You're just wasting your time trying.

Like with so many other things, I have a theory as to why some will never accept the idea that guns should have a place in your life.

Think about who it is that condemns guns. It's the same individuals who believe that, before you can use any kind of violent act to defend yourself from an attacker, you must first take into consideration that the little thug, who's trying to kill you or your loved ones, might have had a troubled childhood. They believe that, before you can judge him, you must, "walk a mile in his shoes. It's only fair." And, life is about fairness.

Listen carefully - I'm not going to judge anyone, in the Wal-Mart parking lot. There is only one judgment call to be made:

"Is my life in immediate and imminent danger?"

Then, there's the issue of using a gun to defend yourself against a poor little street urchin, who can only afford a knife? It's just not fair.

I don't carry a gun because I'm looking for a fair fight. The truth of the matter is that I'm not looking for any kind of a fight, at all. Leave me and mine alone, and I will live out my life, without ever getting into a fight. But, if forced to defend myself, I don't want the fight to be a fair one. I want it to be horribly one-sided and swiftly concluded. I want to win. There is no other acceptable outcome.

Winning is a concept lost on some folks. They will never understand a concept that does not excuse bad behavior in the name of 'fairness'.

With some, it will always be a matter of 'fairness', as they define it. Some folks will never get it. You will never change their minds.

"If you find yourself in a fair fight, your tactics suck." — John Steinbeck

There - I got all the way through without making any reference to bleeding-heart liberals... oops

Practice, Practice, Practice

Jerry Lane Returns to Firearms Instruction – Civilians Benefit

By Chris Bird

Bexar County probation officer Jerry D. Lane had not taught a firearms course for several years but in late March he taught a two-day Defensive Shotgun course to half a dozen civilians. More civilian courses are planned under the auspices of Staying Alive, Inc. Lane is a highly qualified firearms instructor. Over a 25-year period he has taught firearms skills to more than 20,000 law enforcement, military and security personnel and has been a staff instructor for Glock, Smith & Wesson and Heckler & Koch.

The course was held at Blackhawk shooting range in southwest Bexar County, a short drive from San Antonio. Six students were armed with a variety of shotguns, mostly pump-action with a predominance of Remington 870 models. The class included one woman and her husband. Most students had military backgrounds and two were left-handed. Lane too is left-handed but that did not stop him from demonstrating each action right-handed.

We started in the classroom with safety rules a first priority. Each of us was issued a booklet with the outline of the course, photographs and instructions that we could follow as Lane went through stance, grip, sight alignment and trigger control. He then moved on to shotgun handling: loading and unloading, clearing stoppages and using cover. These were all topics we would be required to practice on the range. Lane teaches in a relaxed but competent fashion and encourages students to ask questions.

In the afternoon, we took our shotguns and ammunition to the range. The temperature was in the 80s both afternoons which one student described as “a touch of global warming.” Except when patterning our shotguns, we fired at small steel figure targets set at a steep angle pointing down so the shot hit the ground below the steel and didn’t bounce back to hit the shooters.

We started shooting one, two or three shots from about seven yards to get us used to manipulating our weapons and topping up our magazines without prompting. We did need prompting to scan for other threats after gunning down the bad guy.

The next day we repeated the exercises we did previously then fired a birdshot round followed by a 00 buck round into a cardboard figure target to see how our shotguns patterned. At seven yards, the birdshot pattern was more than a foot wide while the buckshot pattern could mostly be covered by one hand. This demonstrated that a kidnapper holding a hostage could be taken out with a head shot without harming the victim.

We returned to our steel targets and shot what Lane called a Bill Drill with a timer. This entailed firing one or more shots at the body followed by one to the head of the target. We started with one shot to the body and one to the head in one-and-a-half seconds then Lane increased the number of shots to the body, while increasing the time by half a second for each additional shot.

In the afternoon, we added moving to our shooting. We fired one or two shots then took a step or two to the left or right. This was particularly useful for shooting at night. Don’t stay in the same place after firing as that’s where the incoming rounds will be coming if the bad guy is not incapacitated, Lane explained. We learned to walk so the movement of our heads up and down was minimal making it easier to score hits while moving. We took it in turns to walk at right angles to the targets firing one shot as we passed each one. Right-handers moved from left to right and southpaws from right to left. Lane said that moving the other way required shooting off the other shoulder and that would be covered in a more advanced class.

A right-handed student shooting around the left side of cover is more exposed to incoming fire.

The last thing we covered was firing from behind cover. Lane instructed us not to get too close to the cover. We took turns from down range to see how exposed other students were. For right-handers shooting around the right side of cover, very little was exposed but when shooting off the right shoulder around the left side of cover about half our bodies were visible. Lane again said that in a later class we would be shooting off the other shoulder.

At the end of the class, everyone was very complimentary of the course and of Lane’s instruction. Lane and Mike Arnold, owner of Staying Alive Inc., plan to put on more classes including handgun and carbine courses.

For more information, contact Staying Alive at 210-679-7047 or visit the web site at www.stayingalive.info

Students holding their shotguns in the “Safety Circle” position prior to turning 180 degrees to engage their targets.

Practice, Practice, Practice

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 HOME PHONE NUMBER TCHA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

\$0.00 - \$19.99 = \$4.00
\$20.00 - \$49.99 = \$5.00
\$50.00 - \$74.99 = \$7.00
\$75.00—\$99.99 = \$8.00
\$100.00 AND UP = \$9.00

CHARGE TO MY CREDIT CARD: (VISA, MASTERCARD , DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS)

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

 SIGNATURE



TEXAS CONCEALED HANDGUN ASSOCIATION

Membership Application or Renewal Via Newsletter

DATE: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: (CHECK [] ALL THAT APPLY)

- [] (Texas Concealed Handgun License Instructor) Inst. # _____
[] (Texas Concealed Handgun License Permit Holder) Lic. # _____
[] (Out-of-State Concealed Handgun License Instructor or Permit Holder)
[] (Active or Retired Law Enforcement Officer)
[] (Concerned Citizen) [] (Current Member) Member # _____

MEMBERSHIP: (CHECK [] APPROPRIATE BOX): [] CASH [] CHECK [] CREDIT CARD

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE

- [] New Member - \$20 [] Annual Membership - \$20 [] 3-yr. Membership - \$55
[] Cond. Life Membership - \$400 (\$100 down / \$100 ea. qtr.) [] Life Membership - \$400

Name _____
First Middle Last

Mailing Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () - Business Phone () -

E-mail Address _____

As a member of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association, I hereby promise to promote the continuation and improvement of the Texas Concealed Handgun Laws, to present the standards and concerns of the members to the general public, the Department of Public Safety and the legislators who represent us. I further promise to promote responsible firearm safety, ownership and use in our communities, to provide current information to our members about the laws, lesson plans and topics related to the Concealed Handgun License program, and to promote high standards of instruction and training. I will support the right of responsible, law abiding citizens to own, keep and lawfully carry firearms for personal protection.

Enclosed are my dues for membership in the Association. If you are a Texas CHL Instructor please submit a copy of your Texas CHL Instructor Certificate with this application.

Member Signature

Sponsored by _____

Human beings only have two ways to deal with one another: **REASON and FORCE** . If you want me to do something for you, you have a choice of either convincing me via argument, or force me to do your bidding under threat of force. Every human interaction falls into one of those two categories, without exception. Reason or force, that's it

In a truly moral and civilized society, people exclusively interact through persuasion. Force has no place as a valid method of social interaction, and the only thing that removes force from the menu is the personal firearm, as paradoxical as it may sound to some.

When I carry a gun, you cannot deal with me by force. You have to use reason and try to persuade me, because I have a way to negate your threat or employment of force.

The gun is the only personal weapon that puts a 100-pound woman on equal footing with a 220-pound mugger, a 75-year old retiree on equal footing with a 19-year old gang banger, and a single guy on equal footing with a carload of drunk guys with baseball bats. The gun removes the disparity in physical strength, size, or numbers between a potential attacker and a defender.

There are plenty of people who consider the gun as the source of bad force equations. These are the people who think that we'd be more civilized if all guns were removed from society, because a firearm makes it easier for a [armed] mugger to do his job. That, of course, is only true if the mugger's potential victims are mostly disarmed either by choice or by legislative fiat--it has no validity when most of a mugger's potential marks are armed.

People who argue for the banning of arms ask for automatic rule by the young, the strong, and the many, and that's the exact opposite of a civilized society. A mugger, even an armed one, can only make a successful living in a society where the state has granted him a force monopoly.

Then there's the argument that the gun makes confrontations lethal that otherwise would only result in injury. This argument is fallacious in several ways. Without guns involved, confrontations are won by the physically superior party inflicting overwhelming injury on the loser.

People who think that fists, bats, sticks, or stones don't constitute lethal force watch too much TV, where people take beatings and come out of it with a bloody lip at worst. The fact that the gun makes lethal force easier works solely in favor of the weaker defender, not the stronger attacker. If both are armed, the field is level.

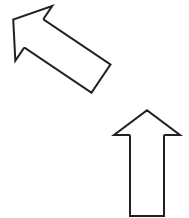
The gun is the only weapon that's as lethal in the hands of an octogenarian as it is in the hands of a weight lifter. It simply wouldn't work as well as a force equalizer if it wasn't both lethal and easily employable.

When I carry a gun, I don't do so because I am looking for a fight, but because I'm looking to be left alone. The gun at my side means that I cannot be forced, only persuaded. I don't carry it because I'm afraid, but because it enables me to be unafraid. It doesn't limit the actions of those who would interact with me through reason, only the actions of those who would do so by force. It removes force from the equation and that's why carrying a gun is a civilized act.



Texas Concealed Handgun Association
 P.O. Box 116
 Ropesville, TX 79358
 www.txchia.org

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To keep updated on Texas reciprocity, check the DPS website at:
http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/crime_records/chl/chlsindex.htm
 or Texas Concealed Handgun website at: <http://www.txchia.org/>

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