



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Sheriff William T. Schatzman



Procedure for the Return of Weapons Surrendered Pursuant to Domestic Violence Protective Order

You may request the return of any firearms, ammunition or permits surrendered during the execution of a 50b Protective Order by filing a **MOTION** with the court.

1. You must file this motion at the expiration of the current 50b Protective Order OR final disposition of any pending criminal charges. This motion can be filed on the 7th floor of the Forsyth County Hall of Justice.
2. You must file the motion no later than **NINETY (90) DAYS** after the expiration of the current order or final disposition of **ANY** pending criminal charges.
3. Once you have filed this motion with the court, a hearing will be scheduled and you will receive written notice and be given the opportunity to be heard in court to find out if you are eligible under Federal and North Carolina State Law to receive your weapons, ammunition, and/or permits.

As soon as you file the motion, you must go to the Forsyth County Public Safety Center to complete a background check by the Permits Unit. There is no fee for this process; however, there are several forms to be completed.

Once the District Court Judge has heard your case, they will determine if you are eligible under North Carolina law to have your weapons, ammunition, and/or permits returned to you.

1. If you **ARE NOT** eligible, the process stops here and the weapons, ammunition, and/or permits will be destroyed and/or revoked.
2. If you are found eligible to receive your weapons, ammunition and/or permits, then you must go to the Property Management Beaty Center located at 1200 N. Patterson Ave., Winston Salem, NC 27101, where you will be required to pay the storage fee.
3. Storage fees are as follows:
A twenty-five dollar (\$25) flat storage fee **PLUS** three dollars (\$3) per handgun and/or five dollars (\$5) per long gun (rifles or shotguns)
4. The fee is charged according to the number of guns seized, not the length of time of storage.

Once the fees have been paid, there is a 24-hour waiting period for a final background check conducted by the Winston Salem Police Department Property Management Section. After this period you may then make an appointment to have the weapons returned to you by calling (336)726-7285.

The Winston Salem Police Department may require additional paperwork for each firearm returned.