



**Michelle A. Henry**  
*Attorney General*

**STRAW PURCHASES ARE  
FUELING THE GUN VIOLENCE  
THAT TAKES THE LIVES OF  
PENNSYLVANIANS EVERY  
SINGLE DAY. BY LEARNING  
ABOUT THE RISKS OF STRAW  
PURCHASING AND REFUSING  
TO PLAY A ROLE IN IT, WE CAN  
MAKE COMMUNITIES SAFER  
AND SAVE LIVES.**

# TRACK+TRACE



Our Track + Trace Initiative is a smart-on-crime, data-driven approach dedicated to tracing crime guns and decreasing gun trafficking and illegal transfers.

Law enforcement's mission cannot end with solving individual gun crimes – gun trafficking and crime guns are fueling this violence.

By tracing firearms used in crimes, we can identify the heart of the problem. Every serial number on a firearm tells a story – we are committed to finding out where these stories begin, and save lives.

For more information on Attorney General Michelle A. Henry's **TRACK+TRACE** initiative, visit [www.attorneygeneral.gov/gunviolence](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/gunviolence)  
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# Silence Won't Stop The Violence.

**WHAT IS STRAW PURCHASING?**



**Michelle A. Henry**  
*Pennsylvania Attorney General*



**Guns that are illegal are likely to become lethal. Safety is not a privilege, it's a RIGHT. Make the bold choice to use your voice;**

**Speak up and Stand up!**

## WHAT IS STRAW PURCHASING?

Straw purchasing is when one individual buys a gun for another individual who is unable to purchase their own gun legally. Straw purchasing is the most common channel identified in trafficking investigations. Data from a national survey of firearm licensees suggests that there are more than 30,000 attempted straw purchases each year.

### Common Reasons for Straw Purchasing:

- The person who wants the gun is unable to purchase due to a criminal background
- The person plans to use the gun in the commission of a crime
- The person is selling guns illegally

### Pennsylvania Law on Straw Purchasing:

Illegally purchasing two or more firearms on behalf of someone else is a felony, accompanied by a **5 - 10 year mandatory minimum sentence in Pennsylvania.**

### Pennsylvania Crimes Code -

#### Title 18 Crimes and Offenses Section 6111(g)

If an individual knowingly, or intentionally sells, delivers, or transfers a firearm to anyone not legally eligible to possess a firearm commits a crime.

**WARNING:** You are not the ACTUAL BUYER if you are acquiring the firearm on behalf of someone else.

### Crime Guns:

Straw purchasing is one of the biggest sources of crime gun transactions and a more common way for guns to end up in the hands of the wrong people. Crime guns don't protect people; they help fuel the structural violence disproportionately affecting certain communities and families on a daily basis.

### Who can not legally own a gun?

- Fugitive / wanted person
- Felony conviction & misdemeanor domestic violence offenses - **Max Term = 1+ Years**
- Drug crimes - **Max Term = 2+ Years**
- 3 DUI's in 5 years & active substance use disorder
- Dishonorable discharge from Armed Forces
- Current restraining order
- If you have ever been involuntarily committed to a mental institution / mentally defective
- Undocumented immigrant

**WARNING:** If you are unsure about your legal situation, get advice from an attorney in order to be sure of your legal status before you try to buy a firearm.

Every transfer of a handgun **MUST** be done through a licensed dealer.

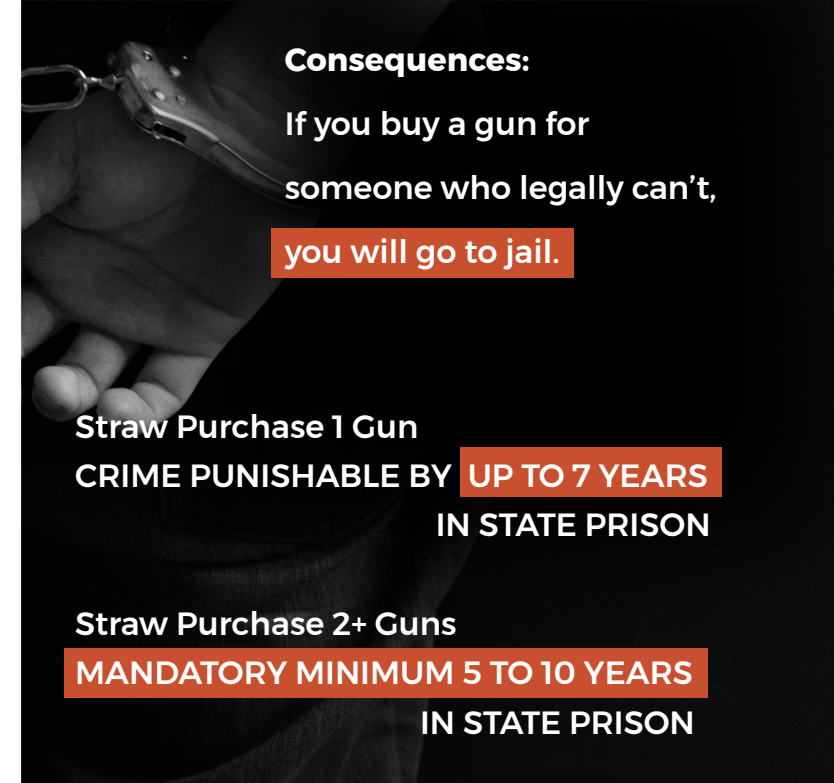
Read federal & state forms correctly. Lying on the form is a crime.

### Firearms Transaction Form:

- You are required to fill out background forms to buy or transfer handguns
- Once forms are filled, a full background check will be performed
- Read the form carefully - they help prevent violence and lying is a serious crime

### Consequences:

If you buy a gun for someone who legally can't, **you will go to jail.**



Straw Purchase 1 Gun  
**CRIME PUNISHABLE BY UP TO 7 YEARS IN STATE PRISON**

Straw Purchase 2+ Guns  
**MANDATORY MINIMUM 5 TO 10 YEARS IN STATE PRISON**