Washington Constitution
Article 1; Section 24
The Right to Bear Arms:

“The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired”

FACTS ABOUT CARRYING A FIREARM

1.) Washington is an "open carry" state for firearms. This means a person may carry a firearm in an exposed holster without any kind of permit unless there is something that makes it specifically illegal (For example, carrying a weapon onto primary or secondary school grounds or other prohibited places, or carrying a weapon by most felons or anyone convicted of a domestic violence crime.)
2.) Unlawful carrying (RCW 9.41.270 ) occurs when the person carries or displays a weapon “in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of other persons” This is something more than just walking around with an exposed firearm. If there is a dispute, for example, and one person, while angry, displays the weapon to scare the other person.
3.) Unlawful carrying without a Concealed Pistol License (CPL) occurs when a person carries a concealed pistol on his person and does not have a CPL. A person may carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle only if they have a valid CPL. Those without a valid CPL may carry a firearm in a vehicle only if the firearm is unloaded and in a secure wrapper or opaque case. (RCW 9.41.050)
4.) Due to state preemption, no city, town, county, or other municipality can restrict your right to keep and bear arms more than the state (RCW 9.41.280)
5.) Carrying concealed (with a CPL) or openly in establishments that serve alcohol is allowed in Washington, so long as it is not carried into an area designated as “no minors allowed” by the Washington Liquor Control Board (RCW 9.41.300)
6.) There is no stipulation that a Washington CPL holder MUST carry concealed. Furthermore, lawful open carry of a firearm is NOT grounds for revocation of a Washington CPL.
7.) IF IT IS NOT PROHIBITED BY STATUTE, IT IS LEGAL

LICENSING

1.) If you live in the unincorporated area of a county you must apply in person at your sheriff’s office.
2.) If you live in an incorporated city within the county, you may apply in person at either the city police department or sheriff’s office.
3.) If you are not a Washington State resident, you may apply at any local law enforcement agency in the state.

PLACES OFF-LIMITS WHILE CARRYING

Refer to RCW 9.41.300 on the inside to view the complete list of restrictions.

Useful Resources

Northwest Citizen's Defense League
http://www.nwcdl.org

Washington Open Carry Discussion Forum
http://opencarry.mywowbb.com/forum55/

Washington Uniform Firearms Act

Students For Concealed Carry On Campus
www.concealedcampus.org

Washington State Rifle & Pistol Association
www.wsrpa.net

Handgun Law
www.handgunlaw.us

Gun Owners of America
www.gunowners.org

National Rifle Association
www.NRA.org

Revised Code of Washington
http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/

www.OpenCarry.org

Yes, Open Carry is Legal.

DISCLAIMER: All firearms laws and interpretations noted here are provided for your information and research. You are responsible to know and understand the law before you carry a firearm. Please refer to the Revised Code of Washington or a lawyer if you need more information.

“...all power is inherent in the people...it is their right and duty to be at all times armed.”

Thomas Jefferson

www.OpenCarry.org
RCW 94.1050 – Carrying firearms

(1) Except in the person's place of abode or fixed place of business, a person shall not carry a pistol concealed on his or her person without a license to carry a concealed pistol. Every licensee shall have his or her concealed pistol license in his or her immediate possession at all times that he or she is required by this section to have a concealed pistol license and shall display the same upon demand to any police officer or to any other person when and if required by law to do so. Any violation of this subsection (1)(b) shall be a class 1 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW and shall be punished accordingly pursuant to chapter 7.80 RCW and the infraction rules for courts of limited jurisdiction.

(2) A person shall not carry or place a loaded pistol in any vehicle unless the person has a license to carry a concealed pistol and: (i) The pistol is on the licensee's person. (ii) The licensee is within the vehicle at all times that the pistol is there, or (iii) the licensee is away from the vehicle and the pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle. (b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(3) A person at least eighteen years of age who is in possession of an unloaded pistol shall not leave the unloaded pistol in a vehicle unless the unloaded pistol is locked within the vehicle and concealed from view from outside the vehicle. (b) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(4) Nothing in this section permits the possession of firearms illegal to possess under state or federal law.

RCW 94.1052 – Carrying firearms

RCW 9.41.300 – Weapons Prohibited In Certain Places – Local Laws and Ordinances

(1) It is unlawful for any person to enter the following places when he or she knowingly possess or knowingly has under his or her control a weapon: (a) The restricted access areas of a jail, or of a law enforcement facility, or any place used for the confinement of a person (i) arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense, (ii) held for extradition or as a material witness, or (iii) otherwise confined pursuant to an order of a court, except an order under chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW. Restricted access areas do not include common areas of ingress or egress open to the general public; (b) Those areas in any building which are used in connection with court proceedings, including courthouses, juries, rooms, judge's chambers, offices and areas used to conduct court business, waiting areas, and corridors adjacent to areas used in connection with court proceedings. The restricted areas do not include common areas of ingress and egress to the building that is used in connection with court proceedings, when it is possible to protect court areas without restricting ingress and egress to the building. The restricted areas shall be the minimum necessary to fulfill the objective of this subsection (1)(b). In addition, the local legislative authority shall provide either a stationary locked box sufficient in size for pistols and key to a weapon owner for weapon storage, or shall designate an official to receive weapons for safekeeping, during the owner's visit to restricted areas of the building. The locked box or designated official shall be located within the same building used in connection with court proceedings. The local legislative authority shall be liable for any negligence causing damage to or loss of a weapon either placed in a locked box or left with an official during the owner’s visit to restricted areas of the building. The local judicial authority shall designate and clearly mark those areas where weapons are prohibited, and shall post notices at each entrance to those areas. (c) The restricted access areas of a commercial service establishment classified by the state liquor control board as off-limits to persons under twenty-one years of age; (d) The portion of an establishment classified by the state liquor control board as off-limits to persons under twenty-one years of age; or (e) The restricted access areas of a commercial service establishment classified by the state liquor control board as off-limits to persons under twenty-one years of age.

RCW 9.41.290 – State Preemption

Cities, towns, and counties or other municipalities may enact laws and ordinances: (a) Restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their respective jurisdictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized. Such laws and ordinances shall not abridge the right of the individual guaranteed by Article I, section 24 of the state Constitution to bear arms in defense of self or others; and (b) Restricting the possession of firearms in any stadium or convention center, operated by a city, town, county, or other municipality, except that such restrictions shall not apply to: (i) Any pistol in the possession of a person licensed under RCW 94.10.70 or exempt from the licensing requirement by RCW 94.10.60; or (ii) Any showing, demonstration, or lecture involving the exhibition of firearms.