



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Washington, DC 20226

March 15, 2004

Open Letter to All Michigan Federal Firearms Licensees

Michigan Concealed Pistol Permit Not an Alternative to NICS

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of your responsibilities under the Brady Law, 18 U.S.C. §922(t).

The permanent provisions of the Brady Law took effect on November 30, 1998. The Brady Law generally requires FFL's to initiate a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) query before transferring a firearm to an unlicensed individual. However, the Brady Law contains a few exceptions to the NICS requirement, including an exception for holders of certain State permits to possess, carry, or acquire firearms. The State of Michigan issues a Concealed Pistol Permit (CPP, but commonly referred to as CCW) and a License to Purchase a Pistol.

The following guidelines apply to the transfer of firearms in Michigan:

The Michigan CPP (CCW) issued under the current Michigan statute
(effective July 1, 2001)

Not an alternative to NICS. You must contact NICS for a background check prior to transfer of a firearm.

The Michigan CPP (CCW) issued under previous Michigan statute

Not an alternative to NICS. You must contact NICS for a background check prior to transfer of a firearm.

Valid License to Purchase a Pistol (valid for 10 days)

No NICS query necessary, a valid alternative to NICS.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the ATF Director of Industry Operations in Detroit, Michigan, at (313) 259-8050.

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