

## Minor's Permit Rules and Regulations:

The supporting legislation is somewhat ambiguous with respect to both transportation and discharge of firearms by a minor. Additional confusion can result from variations between provincial hunting regulations and federal firearms rules. On top of this, individual provinces, via its CFO, may impose additional regulations on Minor's PAL's. To my personal knowledge, these local interpretations and regulations can differ from province to province, e.g. BC is not the same as Quebec or Yukon, or New Brunswick, etc.

I have now contacted the Alberta Firearms Office directly to clarify these issues (01/10/2015, see below).

### Here are the rules:

- Obey the Possession and Acquisitions License rules (below).
- Conform to the Alberta (global) restrictions on the Minor Pall (below).
- Conform to any additional restrictions on a particular Minor's PAL.
- Obey the Safe Storage rules.
- Obey the Safe Transportation rules.

### From the Federal web site:

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/fs-fd/minor-mineur-eng.htm>

Foot notes added:

## Minor's Licence

A minor's licence permits the borrowing of non-restricted firearms<sup>1</sup> for:

- target practice;
- organized shooting competitions;
- hunting; and,
- instruction in the use of firearms.

A minor's licence also permits the **acquisition of ammunition**, unless there is an age restriction under provincial or territorial law.

As a general rule, the following requirements must be met:

- The applicant must be at **least 12 years old**. If they are younger than 12, they may obtain a minor's licence only if they are Canadian residents and their Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) determines they need to hunt or trap to sustain themselves or their family.
- As per section 7 of the Firearms Act, individuals under 18 **must** complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and pass the tests in order to get a licence.
- Individuals younger than 18 years of age are not eligible to hold a licence authorizing them to possess prohibited or restricted firearms.

Prior to a minor's licence being issued, a Firearms Officer may interview the applicant, their parent or guardian. They must first agree and consent to the conditions under which the minor may use firearms.

Conditions may be placed on the licence by the CFO <sup>2, 3</sup>. For example, supervision may be required when the minor uses a firearm.

The minor's licence will expire on the holder's 18th birthday or the expiry date shown on their licence, whichever comes first.

1. *This text permits multiple firearms. The Alberta CFO advises that it would be 'prudent' to limit minors to one firearm at a time; occasional variance would be justifiable.*
2. *Four conditions are attached to all Minor PAL by the Alberta CFO (below)*
3. *Any additional conditions applied in consultation with parents are legally binding.*

## **From the Alberta CFO Office:**

### **Alberta (global) restrictions on Minor Permits:**

1. **Parental Approval:** Issuing of license must be approved (signed) by parents/guardian
2. **Hunting:** Must be accompanied by an adult (18 yr.)
3. **Carry PAL:** Minor must carry the (signed) permit whenever in possession of a firearm.
4. **Acting as Agent:** Minor PAL owners may NOT facilitate the use of firearms or the purchase of ammunition by a person who does not have a PAL.
5. **Transportation:** The parent/guardian is advised by the interviewing Firearms Officer that transportation of a firearm is left to the responsibility and discretion of the parent/guardian. Transportation of a firearm is regulated as per the Firearms Regulations pertaining to an individual.

### **Advice from ENSC on Minors Transporting Rifles:**

All minor PAL's come with a parental form that must to be signed and carried at all times. A minor with a PAL and *signed* parental permission, may transport a rifle under the supervision of *any* adult, provided there is someone with an Adult PAL at either end of the journey, as required by law, to take custody of the rifle for storage and/or to supervise discharge of the rifle.

A minor with a PAL, a drivers license and signed parental permission, may travel from home to practice with firearms, unaccompanied by an adult, provided that there is an Adult PAL at either end of the journey, as required by law, to take custody of the rifle for storage and/or to supervise discharge of the rifle.

### **Additional Restrictions:**

*Any additional restrictions, **once added** to a Minor PAL are **legally binding**.*

Parents/guardians, in consultation with the CFO, may place additional restrictions on a particular Minor's Permit. These will be on the paper certificate issued at the same time as the PAL, and must accompany the Minor PAL when the minor is in possession of a firearm. In particular, the requirement for 'direct supervision while discharging a firearm' is a discretionary condition that may be applied.

### **Transporting Firearms:**

<http://www.edmontonnordic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/TransportingFirearmsSafely.01.10.2015.pdf>

### **Safe Storage of Firearms:**

<http://www.edmontonnordic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/StoringFirearmsSafely.pdf>

**Federal Firearms (RCMP) Help Line: 1-800-731-4000**