

# Recovered Firearms

**Index Code: 1203**

**Effective Date: 07/01/03 (Revised 10/23/2023)**

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## **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish special guidelines for the handling, processing, and disposal of recovered firearms.

## **II. Policy**

It is the policy of the Queen Anne's County Office of the Sheriff that all firearms in the custody of the Office of the Sheriff will be secured, stored, and disposed of through the strict adherence to procedures set forth in this directive.

## **III. Definitions**

### **A. Handgun**

Any pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed on the person, including a short-barreled shotgun and a short-barreled rifle as these terms are defined below, except it does not include a shotgun, rifle or antique firearm as those terms are defined below.

### **B. Antique Firearm**

1. Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898; and

2. Any replica of any firearm described above if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition or uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition which is no longer manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

### **C. Rifle**

A weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

### **D. Short-Barreled Rifle**

A rifle having one or more barrels less than sixteen (16) inches in length and any weapon made from a rifle (whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise) if such weapon, as modified, has an overall length of less than twenty-six (26) inches.

### **E. Shotgun**

A weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

### **F. Short-Barreled Shotgun**

A shotgun having one or more barrels less than eighteen (18) inches in length and any weapon made from a shotgun (whether by alteration, modification, or otherwise) if such weapon, as modified, has an overall length of less than twenty-six inches.

### **G. Assault Pistols and Assault Weapons**

Assault pistols and assault weapons are defined as specified firearms or their copies. For a list of current firearms considered assault pistols or assault weapons, refer to Maryland Code, Article 27, Section 36H-1 for assault pistols or Maryland Code, Article 27, Section 441(d) for assault weapons.

## **IV. Handling of Firearms**

Deputies will exercise the utmost care and caution in the handling and preservation of recovered firearms.

It is the responsibility of the deputy seizing a firearm to unload and render the firearm safe prior to placing the firearm in any storage facility or the Evidence Processing Room. If a deputy recovers a firearm that he is not familiar with, it is the responsibility of that deputy to seek assistance from a deputy with the knowledge to disarm the firearm properly.