



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 39 - PROTECTION OF MINORS

N.C.G.S. § 14-315.

Selling or giving weapons to minors.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2023-8, s. 2(b) — twelfth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:17 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT e16cc5cfe7463bb87aa7f55f - 019b3dbcc9a953354422ca4e - a83916b016813ffe
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§ 14-315(a) Sale of Weapons Other Than Handguns. - If a person sells, offers for sale, gives, or in any way transfers to a minor any pistol cartridge, brass knucks, bowie knife, dirk, shurikin, leaded cane, or slungshot, the person is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and, in addition, shall forfeit the proceeds of any sale made in violation of this section.

§ 14-315(a1) Sale of Handguns. - If a person sells, offers for sale, gives, or in any way transfers to a minor any handgun as defined in G.S. 14-269.7, the person is guilty of a Class H felony and, in addition, shall forfeit the proceeds of any sale made in violation of this section. This section does not apply in any of the following circumstances:

CLASS H FELONY

- (1) The handgun is lent to a minor for temporary use if the minor's possession of the handgun is lawful under G.S. 14-269.7 and G.S. 14-316 and is not otherwise unlawful.
- (2) The handgun is transferred to an adult custodian pursuant to Chapter 33A of the General Statutes, and the minor does not take possession of the handgun except that the adult custodian may allow the minor temporary possession of the handgun in circumstances in which the minor's possession of the handgun is lawful under G.S. 14-269.7 and G.S. 14-316 and is not otherwise unlawful.
- (3) The handgun is a devise and is distributed to a parent or guardian under G.S. 28A-22-7, and the minor does not take possession of the handgun except that the parent or guardian may allow the minor temporary possession of the handgun in circumstances in which the minor's possession of the handgun is lawful under G.S. 14-269.7 and G.S. 14-316 and is not otherwise unlawful.

§ 14-315(b) Repealed by Session Laws 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 597, s. 2.

§ 14-315(b1) Defense. - It shall be a defense to a violation of this section if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) Repealed by Session Laws 2023-8, s. 2(b), effective March 29, 2023, and applicable to pistols sold, given away, transferred, purchased, or received on or after that date.

(2) The person reasonably believed that the minor was not a minor.

(3) The person either:

a.Shows that the minor produced a drivers license, a special identification card issued under G.S. 20-37.7, a military identification card, or a passport, showing the minor's age to be at least the required age for purchase and bearing a physical description of the person named on the card reasonably describing the minor; or

b.Produces evidence of other facts that reasonably indicated at the time of sale that the minor was at least the required age.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
12 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.

	1893	:	:		1958	:		:	:	2023
	TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT									
Nº	YEAR	ACT				CHARACTER				
01	1893	c. 514				ENACTED				
02	Rev.	s. 3832				RECODIFIED				
03	C.S.	s. 4440				RECODIFIED				
04	1985	c. 199				AMENDED				
05	1993	c. 259, s. 3				AMENDED				
06	1993	c. 539, s. 217				AMENDED				
07	1994	Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c)				AMENDED				

08	1994	1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 597, s. 2	AMENDED
09	1996	2nd Ex. Sess., c. 18, s. 20.13(b)	AMENDED
10	2011	S.L. 2011-284, s. 9	AMENDED
11	2013	S.L. 2013-369, s. 18	AMENDED
12	2023	S.L. 2023-8, s. 2(b)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
4 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 14-269.7	(a1)	"minor any handgun as defined in"
G.S. 14-316	(a1)(1)	"is lawful under G.S. 14-269.7 and"
G.S. 28A-22	(a1)(3)	"to a parent or guardian under"
G.S. 20-37.7	(b1)	"a special identification card issued under"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-315 (2023).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-315(a) (2023).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1893, c. 514; Rev., s. 3832; C.S., s. 4440; 1985, c. 199; 1993, c. 259, s. 3; 1993, c. 539, s. 217; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 597, s. 2; 1996, 2nd Ex. Sess., c. 18, s. 20.13(b); 2011-284, s. 9; 2013-369, s. 18; 2023-8, s. 2(b).)

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