



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 54A - THE FELONY FIREARMS ACT

N.C.G.S. § 14-415.1.

Possession of firearms, etc., by felon prohibited.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2025-71, s. 8(a) — nineteenth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 05:52 UTC	33975e9bc45b143089f5c487 - ee92a072825b5d472385b8f0 - c8a1cc3ba5950513

§ 14-415.1(a)
CLASS G FELONY

It is unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to purchase, own, possess, or have in the person's custody, care, or control any firearm or any weapon of mass death and destruction as defined in G.S. 14-288.8(c). For the purposes of this section, a firearm is (i) any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, or its frame or receiver, or (ii) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer. This section does not apply to an antique firearm, as defined in G.S. 14-409.11.

Every person violating the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a Class G felony.

§ 14-415.1(a1)
CLASS F FELONY

A person who violates subsection (a) of this section during the commission or attempted commission of a felony under (i) this Chapter or (ii) Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is guilty of a Class F felony.

§ 14-415.1(a2)
CLASS D FELONY

A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and brandishes a firearm or a weapon of mass death and destruction during the commission or attempted commission of a felony under (i) this Chapter or (ii) Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is guilty of a Class D felony. For the purposes of this subsection, to brandish is to display all or part of the firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction or otherwise make the presence of the firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction known to another person.

§ 14-415.1(a3)
CLASS C FELONY

A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and discharges a firearm or a weapon of mass death and destruction during the commission or attempted commission of a felony under (i) this Chapter or (ii) Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is guilty of a Class C felony.

§ 14-415.1(b)**PRIMA FACIE
EVIDENCE**

Prior convictions which cause disentitlement under this section shall only include:

- (1) Felony convictions in North Carolina that occur before, on, or after December 1, 1995; and
- (2) Repealed by Session Laws 1995, c. 487, s. 3, effective December 1, 1995.
- (3) Violations of criminal laws of other states or of the United States that occur before, on, or after December 1, 1995, and that are substantially similar to the crimes covered in subdivision (1) which are punishable where committed by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

When a person is charged under this section, records of prior convictions of any offense, whether in the courts of this State, or in the courts of any other state or of the United States, shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving a violation of this section. The term "conviction" is defined as a final judgment in any case in which felony punishment, or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, as the case may be, is authorized, without regard to the plea entered or to the sentence imposed. A judgment of a conviction of the defendant or a plea of guilty by the defendant to such an offense certified to a superior court of this State from the custodian of records of any state or federal court shall be prima facie evidence of the facts so certified.

§ 14-415.1(c)

The indictment charging the defendant under the terms of this section shall be separate from any indictment charging him with other offenses related to or giving rise to a charge under this section. An indictment which charges the person with violation of this section must set forth the date that the prior offense was committed, the type of offense and the penalty therefor, and the date that the defendant was convicted or plead guilty to such offense, the identity of the court in which the conviction or plea of guilty took place and the verdict and judgment rendered therein.

§ 14-415.1(d)

This section does not apply to a person who, pursuant to the law of the jurisdiction in which the conviction occurred, has been pardoned or has had his or her firearms rights restored if such restoration of rights could also be granted under North Carolina law.

§ 14-415.1(e)

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

Amendment lineage

1971 1998 2025

TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT

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APPARATUS II
2 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. 14-288.8(c)	(a)	"death and destruction as defined in"
G.S. 14-409.11	(a)	"an antique firearm, as defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-415.1 (2025).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-415.1(a) (2025).

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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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE
(1971, c. 954, s. 1; 1973, c. 1196; 1975, c. 870, ss. 1, 2; 1977, c. 1105, ss. 1, 2; 1979, c. 760, s. 5; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1316, s. 47; 1981, c. 63, s. 1; c. 179, s. 14; 1989, c. 770, s. 3; 1993, c. 539, s. 1245; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 1995, c. 487, s. 3; c. 507, s. 19.5(k); 2004-186, s. 14.1; 2006-259, s. 7(b); 2010-108, s. 3; 2011-2, s. 1; 2011-268, s. 13; 2025-71, s. 8(a).)

