

## Theatrical Firearms: Procedures

Please note that the information below does NOT apply to REPLICAS (anything built as a replica that can't actually fire a projectile, or Airsoft guns), whether they're made out of metal or plastic, that have never and could never fire a bullet. The barrel must be plugged. If you're using that type of prop weapon, you only need to contact the local police department where you are filming.

The following applies to any firearm that was originally manufactured as a weapon and then was later decommissioned:

(Also BB guns/pellet guns are considered firearms)

The Commission should advise interested producers and firearms dealers who lease prop weapons to invoke the following process to ensure that they will not be charged with a violation of the weapons laws. The Commission and the Division of State Police should be given prior notice detailing the following information:

1. An inventory listing, by manufacturer's serial number and prop number, the modified firearms and other weapons or prohibited devices that will be used in the production;
2. A description of the measures that have been taken to render a firearm incapable of, or unsuitable for purposes of, firing a projectile;
3. The dates and location of the filming;
4. The lease or rental agreement, indicating the duration of the lease and requiring return of all prop firearms in the condition loaned;
5. The individual who will be responsible for control of all props that fall within the literal terms of statutes regulating the possession of weapons; and,
6. A description of measures that will be taken to ensure proper control of the prop-weapons.
7. **ALL LETTERS MUST BE NOTARIZED AND ACTUALLY ON COMPANY LETTERHEAD AND REFLECTING AN ACTUAL SIGNATURE ON THE LETTER.**

In addition to providing this information, the production company must agree "that no live ammunition will be available on the set, that no modifications of any firearm will be reversed, that all

firearms will be transported in a manner consistent with federal law, 18 U.S.C.A. 926A, and that they will notify the Division and local law enforcement officials in the event a prop weapon is lost, stolen, or not returned." Both the notice and the production company's written statement acknowledging agreement to the conditions set forth above must be signed and notarized.

Upon receipt of the information the Commission will provide notice to appropriate county and local law enforcement authorities and assist the production company in obtaining any local permits or authorization that might be required.

Contact: Lieutenant Steve Mazzagatti  
609-882-2000 ext. 6619  
Lpp5297@gw.njsp.org

Firearms Investigation Unit Main Number  
609-882-2000 ext. 2060

The State Police Firearms Investigating Unit, are the people to contact should there be any further questions or problems. **A letter, like below, must be mailed to them.** Email will not suffice.

#### Sample Letter

December 12, 2019

Lieutenant Steve Mazzagatti  
Unit Head for Firearms Investigation Unit  
New Jersey State Police  
Firearms Investigating Unit  
P.O. Box 7068  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Lieutenant Steve Mazzagatti:

(Film Company) would like to perform in the State of New Jersey several scenes using prop firearms. Accordingly, please find the following information in connection with the requirements of the New Jersey State law.

1. (quantity of guns) (type of gun) (serial number of gun)  
i.e. 1 Baretta 92 revolver Serial #0685462
2. (modifications to firearms and approval)  
i.e. "The props have been permanently altered pursuant

to standards for the NYCPD Ballistics Department which has inspected and approved the alterations. The barrels of the guns have a metal tube with a diameter smaller than the actual barrel. This prevents an actual projectile from being propelled through the barrel."

3. (Dates and locations of the production)  
i.e. Saturday, November 19, 1994  
Liberty Industrial Park.
4. (attached invoice)
5. (safety precautions/names of individual(s) responsible for weapons/the propmaster's name and address and phone number must be listed here.)

John Smith, Propmaster  
123 Anywhere Street  
Anytown, USA  
212-555-5555 (home and office)

"The props shall be kept in a locked box off set at all times when not in use and kept separate from any blank ammunition. Further, the Property Master and Special Effects Coordinator shall handle the props at all times except as specifically required for use by an actor within a scene. Finally, no live ammunition shall be kept anywhere on or near the set and appropriate safety gear will be used as necessary (eg. ear plugs, face shields, lexan sheets.)

(Film Company) guarantees that "No live ammunition will be available on the set, that no modifications of any firearm will be reversed, that all firearms will be transported in a manner consistent with federal law, 18 U.S.C.A. 926A, and that we will notify the Division and local law enforcement officials in the event a prop weapon is lost, stolen, or not returned."

Sincerely,

Joe Props,  
Property Master

(signature of Property Master and, or, Special Effects

Coordinator.)