

New Carrier Checklist

First-Year CCW Action Plan

This checklist covers the four parallel tracks every new carrier must complete in year one. Print it, work through it, and check each box only when you can back it up with a documented action, a verified rep count, or a confirmed answer.

01 / WEEK ONE: IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Verify your carry rig works in the clothes you wear on a normal day, not range clothes
- Run 10 dry-fire drawstrokes in front of a mirror on day one
- Look up your state carry laws at your official state government website (not a forum)
- Know whether your state requires notifying law enforcement of your CCW permit during stops
- Identify your nearest live-fire range and confirm hours and range rules

02 / HOLSTER: THREE NON-NEGOTIABLE REQUIREMENTS

- Full trigger guard coverage with no flex or collapse under pressure
- Consistent indexed retention so every draw starts from the same position
- Accessible from the clothes worn on a normal day, tested, not assumed
- Quality Kydex or leather construction, no soft nylon holsters of any price
- Drawstroke from this rig is clean and repeatable from your actual carry position
- Re-holstering is smooth and one-handed without looking down the muzzle

03 / PRACTICE: THREE-PHASE FIRST-YEAR STANDARD

PHASE 1 / Months 1 to 3: Build the Daily Habit

- 10 dry-fire drawstrokes per day in your actual carry rig and real-world clothes
- One live-fire session per month minimum (minimum 50 rounds per session)
- Basic malfunction clearance practiced and repeatable on demand

PHASE 2 / Months 3 to 6: Test Against a Benchmark

- Tested against a published qualification drill (free standards at krtraining.com)
- First-shot hit on a man-sized target at 5 to 7 yards from concealment confirmed
- Draw-to-first-shot under 3 seconds achieved and documented in writing

PHASE 3 / Months 6 to 12: Add One Structured Course

- Attended one course with defined performance standards, not just open range time
- Training certificate dated, photographed, and filed

04 / LEGAL BASELINE: REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE BEFORE YOU CARRY

All five conditions must apply for a defensive use of force to be legally defensible.

- Innocence: you did not initiate or escalate the confrontation
- Imminence: the threat was present now, not hypothetical or future
- Proportionality: your level of force matched the specific threat you faced
- Avoidance: in states that require it, you retreated if safely possible
- Reasonableness: a reasonable person in your exact situation would have done the same
- Know your state standard: duty to retreat OR stand your ground (look up the statute)
- Self-defense legal insurance enrolled and active before carrying
- Reciprocity status confirmed at state attorney general website before crossing state lines

05 / AWARENESS: THE HABIT THAT RUNS BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE

- Condition Yellow is your default in all public spaces (relaxed alertness, no specific threat identified)
- On entering any room: note two nearest exits, one cover position, one behavioral anomaly
- Phone-down habit established in higher-risk public environments
- You can describe the layout of any room you have been in for two or more minutes

This list is not complete when you own the gear. It is complete when you have used it, tested it, and documented it. Year one is the work. The permit was the starting line.