

California Ammunition Purchase Compliance Checklist

Know the current rule. Keep the paper trail.

Current status: California's ammunition background check requirement remains fully enforced. A Ninth Circuit panel ruled it unconstitutional in July 2025, but the full court vacated that ruling to rehear the case en banc (Rhode v. Bonta). Oral arguments were held March 25, 2026. No decision has been issued. Comply with today's rule until California's DOJ confirms otherwise.

BEFORE YOU BUY: 6-POINT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Confirm you still need a background check. As of today, you do.
- ☐ Bring a valid California driver's license, state ID, or military ID matching your current address.
- ☐ If you own a registered firearm, expect a fast, low-cost Standard Eligibility Check.
- ☐ If you don't have a firearm on record, budget extra time and a higher fee for a Basic Eligibility Check.
- ☐ Save your Ammunition Transaction Number (ATN) and dealer receipt after every purchase.
- ☐ Check official California DOJ bulletins, not social media, for updates on Rhode v. Bonta.

YOUR PURCHASE COMPLIANCE LOG

Date	Vendor	ATN #	Check Type (Std / Basic)	Documented?
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐

This checklist reflects the compliance status as of the publish date shown on GunCarrier.com's California Ammunition Law 2026 guide. Litigation status can change. Always confirm current requirements directly with California's Department of Justice or your licensed vendor before completing a purchase. This is not legal advice.