



CATAWBA COUNTY OFFICE OF SHERIFF

Donald G. Brown II, SHERIFF

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Return of firearms and ammunition seized during execution of Domestic Violence Protection Orders

If you are a defendant in a domestic violence case and have had your firearms and/or ammunition seized, you may have your firearms returned to you after the following requirements have been met.

- Your Domestic Violence Protective Order or Ex-Parte Order has expired or has been dismissed by a District Court or higher level Judge, and you have an **Order from a Judge** authorizing the Catawba County Sheriff to release your firearms/ammunition. (You can obtain this paperwork from the Clerk of Court or your attorney.)
- You are not under Indictment or have not been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment of more than one year, convicted of a crime of domestic violence, an unlawful user or are addicted to any controlled substance, and you have no history of mental defect or have been committed to any mental institution.
- You are not illegally and unlawfully residing in the United States.
- You have not been dishonorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces.
- You are prepared to pay the Sheriff of Catawba County a fee of **\$5.00 per month per firearm** for the storage of your firearms. This fee shall be paid in cash at the time of pickup.

If all of the above requirements are met:

- Call the Catawba County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 828-465-8340 and ask to speak with the Evidence Technician to schedule an appointment. **Firearm returns are done by appointment only.**

If one or more of the above requirements prevents the Sheriff's Office from returning your firearms:

- You may petition the Court to have your firearms transferred to a third party (friend, family, etc).
- You may petition the Court to hold a Hearing to argue your case before a Judge. (You must subpoena all relevant parties to the Hearing, including the Sheriff's Office Evidence Technician.)
- You may request in writing to have the firearms and/or ammunition turned over to the Catawba County Sheriff's Office for their use and training.

By law, the Sheriff's Office can petition the Court to destroy your firearms if you do not contact the Sheriff's Office within 90 days of the expiration of your Protective Order.