A handgun owner’s responsibility is to know and understand the New York State Laws that govern handguns. Most of these laws are found in the NYS Penal Law and can be referenced via the NYS Legislatures Website: (<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/navigate.cgi> ).

The NYS Penal Law Articles and Sections below address most of the handgun legislation. On the Legislation Information website Select: Laws, PEN and then Reference Articles: 35,265,270 and 400.

**PEN - Penal**

Article 35 - **DEFENSE OF JUSTIFICATION**

35.00 - Justification; a defense.
35.05 - Justification; generally.
35.10 - Justification; use of physical force generally.
35.15 - Justification; use of physical force in defense of a person.
35.20 - Justification; use of physical force in defense of premises and in defense of a person in the course of burglary.
35.25 - Justification; use of physical force to prevent or terminate larceny or criminal mischief.
35.27 - Justification; use of physical force in resisting arrest prohibited.
35.30 - Justification; use of physical force in making an arrest or in preventing an escape.

Article 265 - (265.00 - 265.45) **FIREARMS AND OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS**

265.00 - Definitions.
265.01 - Criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree.
265.01-A - Criminal possession of a weapon on school grounds.
265.01-B - Criminal possession of a firearm.
265.02 - Criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree.
265.03 - Criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree.
265.04 - Criminal possession of a weapon in the first degree.
265.05 - Unlawful possession of weapons by persons under sixteen.
265.06 - Unlawful possession of a weapon upon school grounds.
265.08 - Criminal use of a firearm in the second degree.
265.09 - Criminal use of a firearm in the first degree.
265.10 - Manufacture, transport, disposition and defacement of weapons and dangerous instruments and appliances.
265.11 - Criminal sale of a firearm in the third degree.
265.12 - Criminal sale of a firearm in the second degree.
265.13 - Criminal sale of a firearm in the first degree.
265.14 - Criminal sale of a firearm with the aid of a minor.
265.15 - Presumptions of possession, unlawful intent and defacement.
265.16 - Criminal sale of a firearm to a minor.
265.17 - Criminal purchase or disposal of a weapon.
265.19 - Aggravated criminal possession of a weapon.
265.20 - Exemptions.
265.25 - Certain wounds to be reported.
265.26 - Burn injury and wounds to be reported.
265.30 - Certain convictions to be reported.
265.35 - Prohibited use of weapons.
265.36 - Unlawful possession of a large capacity ammunition feeding device.
265.37 - Unlawful possession of certain ammunition feeding devices.
265.40 - Purchase of rifles and/or shotguns in contiguous states.

Article 270 - **OTHER OFFENSES RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

270.20 - Unlawful wearing of a body vest.

Article 400 - **LICENSING AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO FIREARMS**

400.00 - Licenses to carry, possess, repair and dispose of firearms.
400.01 - License to carry and possess firearms for retired sworn members of the division of state police.
400.02 - Statewide license and record database.
400.03 - Sellers of ammunition.
400.05 - Disposition of weapons and dangerous instruments, appliances and substances.
400.10 - Report of theft or loss of a firearm, rifle or shotgun.