



## Article Side

Want a stun gun? What the law says about them. by [Johanna Lena](#)

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Stun guns have many times proved to be the deal changers in life and death situations and their increasing popularity owing to the big success they have enjoyed as efficient crime-deterrents has seen them become employed even by law enforcement agencies. Other than just the regular pistol or baton designs, stun gun makers are becoming more ingenious in disguising their products, if the crafty designs in the market such as the cell phone, flashlight and lipstick tube models are anything to go by. You can now buy a stun gun capable of voltages ranging from 100,000 volts up to an amazing 4.5 million volts.

However, bearing in mind the substantial potential for stun gun misuse, owning these gadgets is partially or wholly restricted by law in some states and cities. These legislations have understandably elicited much vitriol from different quarters especially in the face of robbery incidents that have been on the rise. Nonetheless, the law is supreme and all and sundry must abide by it; even in areas where stunners are unrestricted there must be sufficient grounds for their use. Accordingly, you should know the relevant legislations concerning stunners in your area of residence before getting down to research on the best model to buy.

As it stands, the possession (by private citizens and in some cases law enforcement agencies) and sale of stun guns is prohibited in Washington DC, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Chicago, Philadelphia, Wisconsin, Howard County, Baltimore and New York. There are states where the use of stun guns is restricted and also partially restricted and this includes Florida, Illinois, Connecticut, California, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kansas and Indiana. Bearing in mind that online shopping has facilitated international trade, it is worthwhile mentioning that stun gun use and possession is restricted in some countries including Belgium, Canada, Australia, Denmark, UK, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden, plus India where only police officers are allowed to use them.

There is a difference between being totally banned and restricted. In the restricted aspect there are various things to consider such as the stun gun cannot be carried as a concealed weapon. In areas such as Ohio people are allowed to carry stunners but there must be reasonable grounds for their use i.e. the situation has to be threatening enough. In other areas such as Connecticut, while people are allowed to use stun guns, they must be kept in the house. In areas where the law on stun guns is complex and yet their use is partially restricted you may need a lawyer to interpret the law to avoid suffering the usually heavy penalties such as long jail terms or hefty fines.

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