

Licensing and Registration

The law assists police in taking preventive measures such as removing guns from domestic violence situations. The licensing system reduces the chances that those who are a threat to themselves or others will get access to firearms. The fully integrated databases ensure that when an incident occurs involving a licensed gun owner, authorities are alerted and may take action to remove the firearms and/or revoke the licence.

Registration promotes accountability. The registration of automobiles, encourages drivers to conduct themselves responsibly, and allows police to enforce the law and crack down on car theft. The same principles apply to firearms. With information now available on what guns are owned by whom, existing safe storage regulations are easier to enforce.

The registry enables police to trace guns back to their original owners. The registry is therefore a useful tool for assisting in police investigations. It allows police to prove legal ownership of firearms and provides valuable information for prosecuting gun theft and illegal possession charges.

The new system helps curb the illegal gun trade by ensuring that firearms are sold only to licensed individuals. Most illegal firearms begin as legal firearms. Registration helps prevent diversion from legal to illegal markets. Under the old system, an individual could buy an unlimited number of rifles and shotguns over a five-year period, with little accountability. By enabling firearms to be traced back to their original owner, the registration and licensing system will help reduce the number of legal firearms being diverted to the illegal market.