The Gun Permit Background Check (GPBC) system provides a streamlined method to process the required background checks for a firearms permit. GPBC also provides a workflow for the permit approval process.

Benefits of the system

The Gun Permit Background Check (GPBC) system may be used for both Permits to Purchase and Permits to Carry. It integrates with the Permit Tracking System (PTS) used by sheriff's offices to process and manage Permit to Carry applications. This allows PTS applicant searches, triggers automatic annual background checks for PTS applicants, and updates permit status based on background check results. The system includes several time-saving processes.

- All queries start with one-time entry of person data.
- Results are returned electronically.
- Results are returned in a consistent order.
- Potential disqualifiers are highlighted.
- An approval workflow process tracks background check decisions made for the permit.

What's included in a gun permit background check?

Checks performed using the system include all of the checks in a QPGC (Query Person Gun Check), plus court records queried through the courts' MNCIS. These QPGC checks include:
- Minnesota and NCIC Person Files.
- Minnesota Criminal History.
- Interstate Identification Index (III).
- National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- Department of Human Services (DHS) civil commitment information.
- Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) driver history/record.
- MNCIS Criminal Records – statewide results for both adult and juvenile records.
- MNCIS Civil Records – statewide results for commitment cases related to mental health and chemical dependency.

Agencies can view information returned from the background check on a computer screen, determine which information matches the applicant and select information to be included in a final report. A detailed criminal history can be obtained by clicking the "Get Details" button, which is the equivalent of the QR/QOR in Portals.

What's the difference between GPBC and QPGC?

The QPGC message key is still available for use within Portals. GPBC is not part of Portals. GPBC has several advantages over QPGC:
- Returned information is organized consistently and is easier to read.
- Potential disqualifiers are highlighted within results.
- Workflow built into the system aids in tracking an application through the review process.
- Notes can be added directly to the record and viewed by other users involved in the review process.
- Administrative messages can be sent to other law enforcement agencies from within GPBC.
- Multiple names, dates of birth and addresses can be entered for an applicant.
- Users can make recommendations to the issuing authority (i.e., sheriff, chief, or designee) to deny or issue.
- Annual Permit to Carry checks are run automatically on a permit's anniversary date.
- Compiled background reports can be printed or saved electronically.
- MNCIS records are returned in GPBC but are not included in a query run in Portals. Further, statewide juvenile MNCIS records are available in GPBC, while other methods are limited to records from the judicial district in which the agency is located.

How do I start using GPBC?

Individual access to GPBC begins by first ensuring that your agency has requested GPBC access via the BCA's Catalog of Services. Agencies with approved GPBC access may add users by submitting the MyBCA Access Request Form located on CJIS LaunchPad. Training will be provided through CJIS LaunchPad.