

FAQ: Firearm Returns

1. What do I need to do to get my firearm back?

Obtain a release letter from the appropriate Court:

1. Circuit Attorney's Office
2. Juvenile Court
3. City Counselor's Office

Information on how to obtain the correct release letter is provided on each Court's respective web page located on this site.

Provide proof of ownership for the firearm.

Compose a narrative regarding how the firearm came into SLMPD's possession on the downloadable affidavit form available on this site.

2. What is a release letter from a court and why do I need one?

A release letter is required if the firearm has any evidentiary value. The appropriate Court will determine if the property can be released and when.

3. How do I establish proof of ownership?

A store receipt works best. However, if the firearm was inherited or was purchased a long time ago for example, and a receipt can't be provided, explain in the affidavit form how it came to be your property.

4. I received my release letter; may I come and get my firearm?

Not yet, the release letter is just the first step in the process. The release letter should be included with all the other paper work that must be completed and turned in to Property Custody. It will be reviewed by various offices within SLMPD to determine if the property can be approved to be released.

5. My firearm was stolen within another jurisdiction, what do I need to retrieve my firearm?

It depends on the jurisdiction within which it was reported stolen. Some agencies will retrieve the firearm from this Department and return it to the proper owner based on their guidelines. However, some agencies will not pick up a stolen firearm. In that situation, a release letter and incident report from the jurisdiction that reported the stolen firearm must be included in addition to the other paperwork previously mentioned.

6. I have turned in all my paperwork including the release letter, can I come and get my firearm?

After all paperwork is turned in, the following steps must be completed internally:

The firearm return officer will review your file and determine if any other documentation needs to be included and will call the claimant if it does.

The firearm must be evaluated to determine if it is a legal firearm.

It must be determined that the claimant has a legal right to own a firearm. For example, the claimant must be old enough, and the claimant cannot be a convicted felon or have an active restraining order (ex parte) filed against them.

Ownership of firearm must not be in doubt.

7. How will I know when I can retrieve my firearm?

The firearm return officer will send a “Notice of Property Available for Return to Owner” letter to your current address advising you to call and schedule an appointment. The letter will also advise you to bring a valid ID and a lockable firearm case.

8. What is a lockable firearm case?

Any solid container with a working lock that can completely contain the firearm.

9. How long does the entire firearm return process take?

Generally, it takes two to six months to complete the process. The release letter usually takes the longest time. The sooner all the paperwork is turned in, the sooner the process can get started. Please note, frequent inquiries will not speed up the process.

10. The officer that seized my firearm said I can come to SLMPD’s Property Custody Division and retrieve my firearm, is that correct?

No, most firearms require that the full firearm return process be completed. If the firearm return officer determines that a firearm return isn’t necessary, the officer will send a “Notice of Property Available for Return to Owner” to the claimant. Regardless, all firearm returns need to be scheduled in advanced.

11. I have completed the firearm return packet (proof of ownership, affidavit, release letter from the appropriate Court, and any other required paperwork) how do I submit it?

Email: propertycustodyfirearms@slmpd.org

Fax: (314)-444-5944

U.S Mail:

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

ATTN: Property Custody

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