

# Follow the Law

## Violating the Game & Wildlife Code can result in serious penalties, including the loss of hunting privileges.

A person charged with violating the Game and Wildlife Code will have the charges adjudicated before a Magisterial District Judge or Court of Common Pleas having jurisdiction. In addition to imposing fines, the court may also order the revocation of hunting and furtaking privileges. Absent a court order, the Game Commission may suspend the hunting and furtaking privileges of persons convicted of violating the Game and Wildlife Code. While revocation can be assessed for any violation, it's generally reserved for significant violations that affect the safety of people or property, or impact the valuable resources of the commonwealth.

Act 54 of 2010 significantly increased fines and revocation periods for serious violations. The following is a list of the most common revocations, but revocation may be applied to other violations, too.

### Revocation Period Required By Law:

- Failure to respond to a citation—Indefinite revocation or until adjudicated
- Failure to pay a fine in full within 180 days after adjudication—Indefinite or until paid
- Hunting or trapping under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance—1 year
- Refusal to submit to a chemical or blood test—1 year or second/subsequent refusal—3 years
- Shooting at another person resulting in no injury or minor injury—2 years; causing serious injury—5 to 10 years; killing another person—15 years
- Failure to render assistance or fleeing after shooting (nonfatal incident)—10 years; failure to render assistance or fleeing after shooting (fatal incident)—15 years/Second offense—additional 10 years

### Revocation Periods for Other Game & Wildlife Code Violations:

- Assaulting an officer—3 years
- Resisting or interfering with an officer; failure to stop on signal by an officer; turning off lights to avoid arrest or detection—2 years
- Unlawful use of lights to take wildlife—Big game—up to 5 years for first offense; other wildlife—3 years for first offense
- Buying or selling wildlife or edible parts contrary to law—Threatened or endangered species—7 years first offense; big game—up to 5 years first offense; other wildlife—3 years first offense
- Take, injure, kill, possess or transport big game during closed season or beyond daily or season bag limits—up to 5 years first offense
- Hunting or furtaking while on revocation—5 years
- Killing or attempting to kill game through the use of bait as an enticement—bear or elk—3 years; all other game—2 years
- Killing, wounding or attempting to kill a deer with a firearm during the archery season—2 years
- Unlawfully taken big game (in season)—Bear or elk—3 years; deer or turkey—1 year
- Disturbing traps of another; trapping/furtaking during closed season; multiple violations in 2-year period; refuse to produce identification to an officer; killing protected wildlife; hunting small game in a closed season; taking over the daily bag limit of small game or migratory birds—1 year

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## INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

In 2011, Pennsylvania became the 36th state to join the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC). The IWVC is an agreement that authorizes states to recognize the suspension of hunting and furtaking privileges in member states. A person's conviction and suspension in one state may affect his or her hunting and furtaking privileges in all states participating in the IWVC. A person, who commits a violation in Pennsylvania and, as a result, is placed on license revocation, also may be suspended in all member states.

All persons convicted of a violation in Pennsylvania that results in the suspension of their hunting and furtaking privileges will receive, in addition to the Pennsylvania revocation notice, an additional notification if the terms of the suspension will be shared with other states cooperating in the IWVC.

Persons having a license suspension in Pennsylvania, which is subject to the provisions of the IWVC, and who plan to hunt or trap in another state, must contact that state to determine their eligibility to purchase a license.

The IWVC also establishes a process whereby wildlife law violations by a nonresident from a member state are handled as if the person were a resident, meaning he or she can be issued a citation rather than being arrested, booked and bonded. This process is a convenience for hunters and trappers of member states, and increases efficiency of wildlife officers by allowing more time for enforcement duties, rather than violator-processing procedures.

For more information on the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, visit the Game Commission website at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

# Reporting a Violation

## Violation Report Form

Use this form to record as much information as possible.

Nature of Violation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Suspect's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Hair \_\_\_\_\_ Eyes \_\_\_\_\_

Customer ID Number (CID) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Distinguishing Features \_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife Involved \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Firearm \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## YOU CAN HELP STOP WILDLIFE CRIMES

If you have witnessed activity you suspect violates the law, immediately note as many details as possible.

The more information you provide, the faster a violator can be caught and prosecuted.

Transmit this information as quickly as possible to the Game Commission region office serving your area.

A list of counties comprising each Game Commission region, as well as telephone numbers and addresses of the region offices is in the front of this digest.

Here are some tips:

- Gather as much information as possible about the subject.
- Get an accurate physical description and any other pertinent information. Try to secure names and addresses of other witnesses, and any information they may have about the violation or suspect
- What type of violation was it, and when, where and what time did it occur?
- What wildlife was involved (species, how many and where are they now)?
- Describe the suspect's vehicle: license number, make, year, color and any other distinguishing features such as dented fenders or other noticeable damage.
- Note other physical evidence, such as hides, entrails, firearms, cartridge cases, etc. Note type and make of firearms involved. Do you know if the illegal game will be moved soon – when and where?



## ***POACHERS ARE THIEVES***

Have you witnessed a wildlife crime involving deer, turkey, bear or elk, or a species that is protected, endangered or threatened?

Call Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – to report wildlife violations, or fill out an Operation Game Thief Reporting Form online.

Calls phoned in to Operation Game Thief at 1-888-PGC-8001 always are answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide your contact information in case officers have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. However, some tips that lead to convictions might qualify for monetary rewards, and callers must provide contact information in order to claim them.

Wildlife crimes affect us all. Be a conservation hero, report wildlife crimes involving big game, or threatened, endangered or protected species to Operation Game Thief. Other violations should be reported to the region office serving that county.

## ***HELP US CATCH THEM!***

# Volunteer Opportunities

## BECOMING A DEPUTY WCO

Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers are local representatives of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Individuals selected for these positions serve in a volunteer capacity and perform their duties under the supervision of a District Wildlife Conservation Officer.

Deputies do not receive regular salary or wages. They may receive compensation at a Commission-approved per diem rate, in lieu of wages and expenses, on certain approved days.

History has shown, though, that, in the performance of their duties, deputies spend far more money than they make.

Deputies are recruited locally on an as needed basis.

Applicants must be in good physical condition, have a good

knowledge of hunting, trapping and other outdoor activities, and be able to maintain a good working relationship with fellow officers and the public.

Deputies should be prepared to function in all phases of Commission activities, including law enforcement, hunter education and other educational exhibits/programs, wildlife management and land management.

For more information about the qualifications needed and becoming a deputy, visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) and click on "Careers and Volunteers."

Those who are interested also may write 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797; or call 717-787-4250.

### Advertising within this digest

The advertising within the Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest is handled under a contract agreement with Liberty Press Publications.

Advertising revenues have enabled the Game Commission to save thousands of sportsmen's dollars in publication and distribution costs.

Advertising does not constitute endorsement by the Pennsylvania Game Commission or Liberty Press, and does not necessarily reflect Pennsylvania laws and regulations.

Among the paid advertisements have been several ads for ATVs. The operation of ATVs on State Game Lands and other properties open to public hunting remains a violation of the law and continues to be aggressively enforced by our wildlife conservation officers and their deputy WCOs. It is unlawful to ride ATVs on State Game Lands, except on **designated roads open for persons issued a Disabled Persons Permit**, and who have a valid registration from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR).

It is unlawful to ride ATVs on private land open to public hunting without the permission of the landowner. It is unlawful to have a loaded firearm on an ATV. Individuals issued a Disabled Persons Permit may hunt from a **parked** ATV. For ATV-use regulations on state forests and parks, contact the DCNR. For information on using an ATV on the Allegheny National Forest, contact the ANF.

To inquire about placing an ad in the digest, contact Liberty Press Publications at 1-800-296-6402.

### HELP PERPETUATE OUR HUNTING AND TRAPPING TRADITIONS

## TEACH HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION

More than 2 million new hunters have become certified since Pennsylvania conducted its first hunter-education course in 1959.

And a record 38,671 students received their basic Hunter-Trapper Education certification last year.

None of it would be possible without a dedicated corps of volunteer instructors, and you could become the next of them.

The Game Commission is seeking knowledgeable and experienced individuals to teach both basic and advanced hunter education training programs.

As a volunteer hunter education instructor, you'll be teaching students with an easy-to-use, standardized curriculum for which all teaching aids and materials are provided.

Courses average six hours for a classroom format and eight hours for a skills station format.

To qualify, instructors must:

- be at least 18 years old;
- attend and complete training;
- pass a background investigation, and;
- meet minimum education levels.

Volunteer instructors should have the ability to give 12 to 16 hours each year. Annual instructor training events and the opportunity to teach advanced classes, such as Successful Bowhunting and Successful Furtaking also are available.

Statistics show hunting fatalities and injuries from firearms have declined by more than 80 percent over the years, showing that hunter education is working and working well.

For more information about becoming an instructor, visit the Game Commission education page at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) or call the Game Commission Hunter-Trapper Education Division at 717-787-7015.



# COPA — CONSERVATION OFFICERS OF PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION

COPA was formed in 1994 to promote professionalism among Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Waterways Conservation Officers, and to enhance the spirit of understanding and cooperation between our officers and the public. COPA is affiliated with the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association, an international association for conservation professionals.

## COPA Membership Application

Although COPA is an organization of professional law enforcement officers, anybody who believes in and wants to support conservation law enforcement is welcome to join as an Associate Member.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Associate (\$15 a year)  Junior (under 16) (\$5 a year)

Make checks payable to COPA and mail to: COPA, 100 Nature Way, Milroy, PA 17063. Allow four to six weeks for membership processing. New Associate Memberships from this ad will be good through 2017.



COPA's 2016 collectible patch, as well as past patches and other items, can be ordered by visiting the organization's website. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

For more on COPA, visit [www.pawco.org](http://www.pawco.org)

Visit [www.ExperienceElkCountry.com](http://www.ExperienceElkCountry.com) to purchase your ticket or for more information.

**KEYSTONE ELK COUNTRY ALLIANCE 2016 PA ELK TAG RAFFLE**

Get your tickets starting April 1st for a chance to win the 3rd annual Conservation Elk Tag. With a cost of only \$25 (6 tickets for \$100), any hunter has a chance to win this once-in-a-lifetime hunt! The drawing will be held at the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, PA on Sunday August 21st at 1PM, during the 2016 Elk Expo. Winner of the special tag will receive a hunt featuring:

- CHANCE AT A RECORD 400+ CLASS BULL
- 57 DAY HUNTING SEASON
- HUNT ACROSS ANY OPEN ELK HUNT ZONE

Tag awarded by:

100% of KECA's proceeds from ticket sales directly benefit Pennsylvania's Elk Country. Winner DOES NOT have to be in attendance at drawing. Our partner in conservation, TomBob Outdoors, will film winner's hunt for national television upon winner's decision. Elk County Outfitters will donate and provide fully guided hunt. A fully donated shoulder mount is also included. Details available on KECA's website.