

LOCKSMITH LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

As of September 2025, there are 13 states in the nation that have statutes requiring licensing for locksmiths. These are Alabama, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia. Below are the relevant statutes and portions of the statute governing licensing in each of the states.

Alabama:

Alabama administrative code Rule 304-X-1-.03

(1) Section 1 Company License

- (a) No person operating an alarm system company or locksmith company may sell, install, monitor or otherwise operate in the state of Alabama without a license from the Board of Licensure.
- (b) The company will complete an application and pay the necessary fees to the Board of Licensure and upon receipt of a license they can operate. The administrative fee and all other fines, penalties, and fees due at the time of the licensure application must be paid before an initial license or renewal license will be issued by the Board.
- (c) The Board has six calendar weeks to act upon a complete application.
- (d) No company license can be issued without submitting a complete company application and a complete application for the company's qualifying agent.

California

2024 California Code Business and Professions Code – BPC DIVISION 3 - PROFESSIONS AND VOCATIONS GENERALLY CHAPTER 8.5 – Locksmiths ARTICLE 4 – Licenses Section 6980.17.

- (a) An application for a locksmith license shall be made and filed with the chief in the form as may be required by the director, and shall be accompanied by the application fee prescribed by this chapter. The chief may require the submission of any other relevant information, evidence, statements, or documents.
- (b) Every application for a locksmith license shall state, among other things that may be required, the name of the applicant, the name under which the applicant will do business, and the location by street, number, and city of the office of the business for which the license is sought.
- (c) No license shall be issued in any fictitious name that may be confused with, or that is similar to, any federal, state, county, or municipal governmental function or agency, or to any law

enforcement agency, or in any name that may tend to describe any business function or enterprise not actually engaged in by the applicant.

(d) No license shall be issued in any fictitious name that is misleading or would constitute false advertising.

Connecticut:

CHAPTER 400p

LOCKSMITHS Sec. 20-691. Locksmiths. Definitions. Registration. Exemptions. Prohibitions. Regulations. Investigations and hearings. Revocation and suspension of registration. Civil penalty. Unfair or deceptive trade practice.

(b) (1) A person seeking registration as a locksmith shall apply to the commissioner on a form provided by the commissioner. The application shall include the applicant's name, residence address, business address, business telephone number, a question as to whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony in any state or jurisdiction, and such other information as the commissioner may require. The applicant shall submit to a request by the commissioner for a state and national criminal history records check conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 29-17a. No registration shall be issued unless the commissioner has received the results of such records check. In accordance with the provisions of section 46a-80 and after a hearing held pursuant to chapter 54, the commissioner may revoke, refuse to issue or refuse to renew a registration when an applicant's criminal history records check reveals the applicant has been convicted of a crime of dishonesty, fraud, theft, assault, other violent offense or a crime related to the performance of locksmithing.

Illinois:

(225 ILCS 447/) Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004.

(a) It is unlawful for a person to act as or provide the functions of a private detective, private security contractor, private alarm contractor, fingerprint vendor, or locksmith or to advertise or to assume to act as any one of these, or to use these or any other title implying that the person is engaged in any of these activities unless licensed as such by the Department. An individual or sole proprietor who does not employ any employees other than himself or herself may operate under a "doing business as" or assumed name certification without having to obtain an agency license, so long as the assumed name is first registered with the Department.

Louisiana:

Louisiana House Bill 607

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1664.3(59), 1664.9(B)(1) and (3) and (C)(1) and (3) and to enact R.S. 40:1664.3(73) through (80) and 1664.9(C)(12), relative to locksmith licensing; to provide for definitions; to provide for limited locksmiths; to provide for automotive locksmiths; to provide for limited security; to provide for limited conveyance device mechanics; to provide for licensing and renewal fees; and to provide for related matters.

Maryland

2018 Maryland Code Business Regulation Title 12.5. Locksmiths Subtitle 1 - Definitions; General Provisions § 12.5-101. Definitions

- (a) In general. -- In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) Business. -- "Business" means a commercial entity that provides locksmith services.
- (c) Employee. -- "Employee" means an individual employed by a licensed locksmith to provide locksmith services on behalf of the licensed locksmith.
- (d) Fixed business address. -- "Fixed business address" means a single physical location where a licensee conducts business and at which the licensee or an employee of the licensee is available:
 - (1) during normal business hours; or
 - (2) other hours as provided in the application for the license.
- (e) License. -- "License" means a license issued by the Secretary to provide locksmith services.
- (f) Licensed locksmith. -- "Licensed locksmith" means, unless the context requires otherwise, a business that is licensed by the Secretary to provide locksmith services.
- (g) Local law enforcement unit. -- "Local law enforcement unit" means the Department of State Police, a police department in the State, or sheriff in the State:
 - (1) designated by the county or municipal governing body for a licensee with an in-State fixed business address; or
 - (2) designated by the Secretary for a licensee with an out-of-state fixed business address.
- (h) Provide locksmith services. -- "Provide locksmith services" means to engage professionally and for compensation in:
 - (1) repairing, rebuilding, rekeying, repinning, recombining, adjusting, or installing mechanical, electrical, or electromechanical locking devices, safes, vaults, or safe deposit boxes; or

(2) operating a mechanical, electrical, or electromechanical locking device or opening safes, vaults, or safe deposit boxes by a means other than that intended by the manufacturer of such locking devices.

Nevada

NRS 655.070 Permit: Requirement; investigation; issuance; expiration and renewal; possession by holder; report of change of address.

1. Every person who wishes to operate as a locksmith or safe mechanic must obtain a permit from the sheriff of the county in which the person's principal place of business is located.
2. The sheriff of a county shall investigate each applicant and shall issue a permit to each applicant who qualifies under any ordinance adopted by the board of county commissioners of the county which regulates the occupation of locksmiths and who is found by the board of county commissioners to be suitable. An ordinance adopted by the board of county commissioners must specify fees for the issuance and renewal of a permit.
3. A permit expires 5 years after the date it was obtained and may be renewed.
4. The holder of a permit shall have the permit in his or her possession at all times.
5. The holder of a permit shall report any change of address of his or her principal place of business to the sheriff of the county in which the permit was obtained within 10 days after the change occurs.

New Jersey

N.J. Admin. Code § 13:31A-2.1 - Requirements for locksmith licensure

(a) An applicant seeking licensure as a locksmith shall:

1. Be at least 18 years of age;
2. Be of good moral character pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:5A-27;
3. Not have been convicted of a crime of the first, second or third degree within 10 years prior to the filing of the application for licensure;
4. Hold a high school diploma or equivalency certificate;
5. Have successfully completed the locksmithing examination set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:31A-2.3;
6. Have immediately preceding the submission of the application:
 - i. At least three years of practical hands-on experience in the provision of locksmithing services. For purposes of this section, three years means a 36-month period, with at least 20 working days

per month, during which the applicant has been engaged in the full-time provision of locksmithing services as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:31A-1.2, equal to a minimum of 5,040 hours. "Practical hands-on experience" shall not include time spent supervising, engaging in the practice of engineering, estimating, and performing other managerial tasks relevant to the provision of locksmithing services; or

ii. Completed a two-year apprenticeship program in the provision of locksmithing services approved by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training of the United States Department of Labor; and

7. Have three years immediately preceding the submission of the application successfully completed two hours of training in the Barrier Free Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-7, two hours of training in the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code, N.J.A.C. 5:23, exclusive of the Barrier Free Subcode, two hours of training in the Americans with Disabilities Act Code, 36 CFR 1191, two hours of training in industrial safety, and two hours of training in New Jersey law and rules governing the provision of burglar alarm, fire alarm, and locksmithing services.

North Carolina

Chapter 74F. Locksmith Licensing Act.

No person shall perform or offer to perform locksmith services in this State unless the person has been licensed under the provisions of this Chapter. Every person providing locksmith services as defined under G.S. 74F-4(5) to buildings containing medical records, pharmaceutical records, educational records, criminal records, voting records, tax records, legal records, or personnel records, including any person providing locksmith services who is employed by or working for a school, college, university, hospital, company, institution, or government facility shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

Oklahoma

2024 Oklahoma Statutes Title 59. Professions and Occupations §59-1800.6. License required

No person shall engage in an alarm, locksmith or fire sprinkler industry business in this state without first having obtained a license pursuant to the provisions of the Alarm, Locksmith and Fire Sprinkler Industry Act; provided, however, a business or person licensed pursuant to the Alarm, Locksmith and Fire Sprinkler Industry Act shall not be required to obtain multiple licenses to install, repair or modify any component of an integrated security system, excluding commercial fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems.

Oregon

Chapter 812 Division 30 LOCKSMITH CERTIFICATION

812-030-0200

General Application Requirements

An individual must submit the following to qualify for a locksmith certificate:

- (1) An application on a form provided by the board;
- (2) The fee established in OAR 812-030-0250; and
- (3) If applicable, the CCB license number of the business owned by or employing the applicant.

Texas

37 Tex. Admin. Code § 35.123 - Locksmith Company License

Pursuant to the Act, the department has determined that an applicant for licensure as a locksmith company, or the prospective company representative of the applicant company, must meet one of the qualifications detailed in this section:

(1) Qualification option one. Two (2) consecutive years of full-time locksmith-related experience; or

(2) Qualification option two.

(A) Successful completion of a department approved forty-eight (48) hour basic locksmith course and a six hundred (600) hour fundamentals of locksmith course, with the curriculum content detailed in this subparagraph:

(i) Introduction to locksmithing.

(ii) The Act and this chapter.

(iii) State of Texas and United States Government business requirements.

(iv) Key blank identification.

(v) Key machine and key duplication.

(vi) Codes and code cutting.

(vii) Basic lock types.

(viii) Basic picking.

(ix) Rim and mortise cylinders.

(x) Key in knob/key in lever locks.

Virginia

6VAC20-174-290. Locksmith - compulsory minimum training requirements.

A. Entry-level course and minimum hour requirement. The compulsory minimum entry-level training courses and specific minimum hour requirement excluding examinations, practical exercises, and range qualification shall be:

Locksmith - 18 hours

25E: Locksmith - 18 hours

B. Entry-level course content. The compulsory minimum entry-level training course content by specific course excluding examinations, mandated practical exercises, and range qualification shall be as provided in this subsection.