

OFFICE OF SHERIFF

DUBUQUE LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2015

Dubuque County Sheriff Don Vrotsos announced today that effective December 1, 2015 applications for concealed weapons permits and permits to purchase handguns and revolvers will move to an online web service.

In January 2011 changes made to Iowa laws on weapons permits resulted in sheriff's offices across the state experiencing a considerable increase in applications. Dubuque County was no exception, and it is anticipated that due to the 5 year expiration of those permits in 2016, we will again see heavy demand due to permit renewal.

The online process will be similar to the one used by Polk, Scott, Black Hawk and Dallas counties in Iowa. Those sheriff's offices have had favorable results and gave positive reviews of the same software that the Dubuque County Sheriff's Office will launch. It is believed that this new process will be more efficient in handling permit applications and will eliminate at least one trip to the sheriff's office on the part of the applicant.

Applicants are directed to go to the Dubuque County Sheriff's Office website located at www.dbqcosheriff.com where they will find a tab labeled "Weapons Permits". On this tab they will be able to complete the application, pay their fees by debit or credit card and choose to be notified via phone, email or text message once their background investigation has been completed. Applicants will then be directed to arrange to come to the Dubuque Law Enforcement Center with identification issued by the Iowa Department of Transportation and to provide the required training certificate.

A \$4.00 convenience fee will be assessed to those applicants who wish to apply from home, and those fees are kept by the software vendor who will maintain the system. In addition to handling the application process, the software vendor will also provide the sheriff's office with information that is required to be compiled and sent to the state of Iowa on a monthly basis.

Those individuals who may not have access to a computer, don't have a debit or credit card, or simply do not wish to pay the convenience fee, will continue to have the option of coming to the sheriff's office to complete their application via a computer kiosk that will be located in the lobby area of the DLEC. Once they have completed the application, they will be able to select a "pay at the window" option and payment can be made directly to sheriff's office staff.

Don A. Vrotsos, Dubuque County Sheriff