

Combating Illegal Gun Trafficking Act

⚠ THE PROBLEM

Gun dealers are a critical link between gun manufacturers and the public. They are also one of the largest sources of illegally trafficked firearms in the nation through sales to “straw purchasers” -- purchasers who purchase firearms on behalf of criminals and others who cannot lawfully purchase a firearm.

✓ THE SOLUTION

The Combating Illegal Gun Trafficking Act became an Illinois law on January 18, 2019. This law created a firearm dealer license certification process, which requires all federal firearm license holders (FFLs) in Illinois to be certified. The certification is issued by the Illinois State Police (ISP) and requires that they take a number of common sense steps to prevent straw purchases and other illegal sales:

- Videotape all sales transaction
- Train salespersons with respect to common indicators of straw purchases
- Require increased record-keeping with respect to gun sales
- Authorize periodic compliance inspections of gun dealers by the Illinois State Police

The law requires that dealers renew their certification with ISP when they renew their FFL. Further, certified dealers must enter a record of any firearm purchase within 24 hours of the transaction.

HOW DOES THE LAW MAKE ILLINOIS SAFER?

Illegal guns drive gun violence in Illinois. In 2019, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) traced 15,486 crime guns recovered by law enforcement in Illinois. Of these, **53% were recovered in Chicago** (8,203). While many gun dealers abide by state and federal laws, research has shown that **40% of crime guns** recovered by law enforcement in Chicago come from Illinois gun dealers.

Sources

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, [“Illinois: Firearms Tracing System January 1, 2019–December 31, 2019.”](#)

Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago, [“Tracing the Guns: The Impact of Illegal Guns on Violence in Chicago Report, 2014.”](#)

University of Chicago and Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago, [“Gun Trace Report, 2017.”](#)