

NEW FIREWORKS LAW IN GEORGIA

Often, when thinking of the Fourth of July, one of the first things that come to mind are big, beautiful fireworks, with vibrant colors that light up a summer night's sky. In the midst of all this holiday grandeur, it is important to understand fireworks safety and how to prevent tragedy during your July 4 celebration.

Historically, only low impact fireworks have been allowed in Georgia. These include wire and wood sparklers and other sparkler type fireworks. July 1, 2015 consumer fireworks were made legal in the state of Georgia. On July 1, 2016, the new Georgia Fireworks Law was amended. The legal hours to discharge fireworks, where you can discharge fireworks, and the type of temporary locations were the main changes. Here is a brief rundown of the new fireworks law with changes in red:

PURCHASE OF FIREWORKS

- Consumer fireworks will include firecrackers, skyrocketers, bottle rockets, Roman candles for example
- A purchaser of fireworks must be 18 years of age or older with a government issued ID showing the purchaser's birth date and photo or physical description. This must be shown to the seller.
- The transaction must take place in person, face-to-face in order to legally purchase fireworks.
- Consumer fireworks stores and facilities must be licensed through the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office prior to selling consumer fireworks
- Fireworks cannot be sold out of vehicles or trailers being towed by a vehicle
- Temporary sales of consumer fireworks shall only be in retail sales stands. No tents are allowed.

USE OF FIREWORKS

- Consumer fireworks will be allowed to be used between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. every day. On July 3, July 4, December 31, and January 1, the curfew on setting off fireworks extends to 11:59 p.m. On January 1st the time extends from 12:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- Fireworks may not be discharged within 100 yards of a nuclear plant or a business which sells or refines gasoline products. Fireworks are **NOT PERMITTED** on city or state property without written permission.
- Fireworks may not be discharged indoors.
- Sky lantern that use flame for propulsion are **NOT PERMITTED** to be released
- Wish lanterns using a flame for visual effect are **NOT PERMITTED** in any public waterway, lake, pond, or river