



## EXERCISING THE RIGHT

### South Dakota Passes Constitutional Carry

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem signed her first bill into law on January 31. It goes into effect on July 1, 2019 and authorizes the permitless carry of firearms, meaning that residents of South Dakota will not need to obtain a license from the state in order to carry a firearm on their person. This will make South Dakota the 14th state to allow concealed carry without a permit. NRA-ILA executive director Chris Cox applauded the move and hailed the law as “a common sense measure that allows law-abiding South Dakotans to exercise their fundamental right to self-protection in the manner that best suits their needs.”

In signing the bill, Noem proudly exclaimed, “More than 230 years ago, the Founding Fathers of our country penned the Constitution that has since laid the framework for centuries of policies. They so firmly believed in the importance of the freedom to bear arms that they enshrined it into the Constitution’s Second Amendment.... This constitutional carry legislation will further protect the Second Amendment rights of South Dakotans.”

### Registered Sex Offender Shot During Break-in

WITN reported out of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, on February 1 about an encounter in which a man with a criminal past involving a sex crime attempted to break in to someone’s house. Thirty-eight-year-old Tyrell Johnson tried entering the residence through a back door around 6:30 a.m. The homeowner confronted the man and demanded that he stop. Johnson didn’t comply with the homeowner’s lawful orders, so the homeowner was forced to shoot him twice. The injured suspect fled the scene and drove to a nearby medical facility, where he was listed in fair condition. WITN reported that Johnson is a registered sex offender because he had a 2008 conviction for a second-degree sex offense. He was also convicted for manslaughter around the same time. Johnson was released from prison in August 2017, but was labeled a parole absconder, which means that he most likely stopped making his mandatory contact with his parole officer and could no longer be contacted.

### Which Ammo Is Best for Self-defense?

In an interesting column for the Daily Caller published on February 2, Sam Hooper of [AlienGearHolsters.com](#) wrote about the type of ammunition he’d recommend for self-defense, as compared to the type of ammunition that sounds good on paper but has some major drawbacks in reality. Hooper decried using “hardball” ammunition — often referred to as “full metal jacket” or “FMJ” — which has a core of soft metal, typically lead, surrounded by a jacket of hard metal, usually copper. One of the major advantages of FMJ ammunition is that it doesn’t cause lead to build up in the barrel as it’s fired because the lead is encased in a jacket. That lead buildup can lead to degraded accuracy over time. This type of ammunition is obviously good for someone who is shooting a high volume.

While this is the type of ammunition that has traditionally been used by the military, Hooper explains that it’s actually not as effective for stopping “hostile personnel” as an alternative type of bullet. Hooper explained that FMJ ammunition won’t come to a stop in a bad guy, which means a bullet could exit the target’s body and potentially injure someone standing nearby. This is not as true for expanding



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ammunition, such as “jacketed hollow point” or “JHP” bullets, which are bullets with either a depression in the middle of each bullet or a hole through the center, which exposes the soft metal core while still having a jacket of hard metal. The design of JHP bullets causes them to expand outward when they enter the soft tissue of a human. This expansion creates a more traumatic gunshot wound and also slows the bullet down, which is ideal because you want the bullet to stop within your target. For these two reasons, JHP rounds are increasingly being recommended for defensive carry and are the preferred ammunition of police.

Hoober discussed bullet types, but also dispelled the notion that shooting someone will always stop them in their tracks. Hoober explained that “expanding ammunition broadens the wound channel and (on paper) increases the potential to wound vital structures, but the thing there is that in the real world, that happens less than you’d think. Blood loss takes minutes to take effect unless you happen to directly hit the heart or a select few big arteries (such as the femoral arteries, descending aorta or the aortic arch) or one of the internal organs, which can result in faster blood loss. Cardio-pulmonary trauma, again, can take time to have an effect if the subject is high or sufficiently amped up on adrenaline. The only sure stop is a hit to the brain stem. What stops most people when they’re shot? Shock. ‘Oh my god! I’ve been shot!’ Or something to that effect. Why expanding ammunition is important, of course, is that it comes to a stop inside the target or, upon exiting, can’t do damage to another fleshy person nearby. FMJ rounds will.”

## **Death at the Dollar Store**

WSB-TV reported on January 29 about a deadly shooting that occurred at a Family Dollar in DeKalb County, Georgia. Police investigators say that a man entered a Family Dollar store, pulled a handgun on two employees, and demanded cash. While the terrified employees were retrieving the money for the suspect, a customer in the store, who was lawfully licensed to conceal carry, pulled out his own handgun and opened fire on the suspect. Store employees immediately called 911, and police rushed to the store only to find the suspect dead at the scene. Police told WSB-TV that the customer who fatally shot the suspect will not be charged for the shooting and that store employees were grateful for his actions.

Sergeant Lynn Shuler with the DeKalb County Police Department told WSB-TV that the one female clerk who was in the store during the shooting was very shaken up over the incident, but appears to be on the road to recovery.

— Patrick Krey



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