SHOTS – Sussex Home of Target Shooting



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Firearms Act 1968

Prohibited Persons

Section 21 of the Firearms Act 1968 prohibits a person from possession of any type of firearm (including air weapons) if they have been given a custodial sentence when convicted of a criminal offence.

- If you have received a custodial sentence of 3 months but less than 3 years then you are prohibited for a period of 5 years from the date you are released.
- If you have received a custodial sentence of 3 years or more then you are prohibited for life, from the date of release.
- The prohibition may be lifted on application to the Crown Court, for advice please consult a solicitor.

Extension to definition of Prohibited Person under Section 21 Firearms Act 1968

From 14 July 2014, if a person receives a suspended sentence of three months or more then they will not be able to purchase or possess a firearm or ammunition for a period of five years from the second day after sentence. This timescale has been set so that a person who is in possession of a firearm or ammunition is not in immediate breach of the law when the sentence is passed and has an opportunity to make arrangements to transfer or dispose of their firearm or ammunition.

Section 110 makes another amendment to the Firearms Act so that from 14 July 2014, a person who has served or received a criminal sentence will not be able to possess an antique firearm. The prohibition applies to anyone who has served a custodial sentence of more than three years or has served a custodial sentence, or received a suspended sentence, of between three months and three years.