

NORTH CAROLINA LOCKSMITH LICENSING

- Law covers those companies that provide locksmith services, defined as “Repairing, rebuilding, rekeying, repinning, servicing, adjusting, or installing locks, mechanical or electronic locking devices, access control devices, egress control devices, safes, vaults, and safe- deposit boxes for compensation or other consideration, including services performed by safe technicians.”
- Rules, regulations, application processing and enforcement is handled through the North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board (<http://www.nclocksmithboard.org>).
- An applicant shall be licensed as a locksmith if the applicant meets all of the following qualifications: is of good moral and ethical character; is at least 18 years of age; successfully completes an examination administered by the Board that measures the knowledge and skill of the applicant in locksmith services and the laws applicable to licensed locksmiths; pays the required fee.
- All licenses shall expire three years after the date they were issued unless renewed.
- When opening a locked door to any vehicle or residential or commercial property, a licensee shall make a reasonable effort to verify that the customer is the legal owner of the vehicle or property or is authorized by the legal owner to gain access to the vehicle or property.
- A license will not be issued if the candidate has been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a crime that indicates that the person is unfit or incompetent to perform locksmith services, that involves moral turpitude, or that indicates the person has deceived or defrauded the public or has demonstrated gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in performing locksmith services.
- Exemptions from licensing includes (but not limited to): an employee of a licensed locksmith when acting under the control and supervision of the licensed locksmith; a person working as an apprentice under the supervision of a licensed locksmith while fulfilling the requirements for licensure when acting under the control and supervision of the licensed locksmith; an employee of a towing service, a reposessor, a taxi cab service, a motor vehicle dealer, or a motor club when opening automotive locks in the normal course of their duties, so long as the employee does not represent himself or herself as a locksmith; a merchant, or retail or hardware store, when it lawfully duplicates keys or installs, services, repairs, rebuilds, reprograms, rekeys, or maintains locks in the normal course of its business, so long as the merchant or store does not represent itself as a locksmith; a member of a law enforcement agency, fire department, or other government agency who, when acting within the scope and course of the member's employment with the agency or department, opens locked doors to vehicles, homes, or businesses.

THIS IS A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE LAW AND DOES NOT INTEND TO REPRESENT THE ENTIRE SET OF QUALIFICATIONS OR REQUIREMENTS. FOR FULL TEXT OF THE LAW GO TO:

http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_74F.html