

Aaron Kirkingburg's testimony

As a licensed concealed carry holder, a firearms instructor who teaches Ohio's CCW class, a training counselor who certifies others to teach Ohio's CCW class, and manager of a state shooting facility, I will speak briefly on common training standards among most instructors. Although I cannot speak for all instructors in Ohio, I believe my statements herein will represent the vast majority of instructors across our great state. We all want officers to feel comfortable when interacting with us as a CCW licensee.

As an instructor, I teach my students how to properly notify an officer during an encounter. There are many factors that could be at play. Traffic stop, automobile accident, witness to a crime, just to name a few. Varying levels of stress may be involved in any, or all, of these scenarios. I teach multiple options for notification and encourage my students to practice the act of notifying an officer, in case the particular situation they find themselves in includes a level of stress that could help them easily forget to do so "promptly". I even instruct my students to notify an officer when NOT armed, as a courtesy. Even though there is no duty to notify when a CCW licensee is not armed. I teach the trainers I certify, to instruct their students in the same manner. None of this will change when the "duty" to notify is no longer punishable by law if not done "promptly" but done as a courtesy to the officer. This will remain a normal part of concealed carry training by myself, the trainers I certify, and the overwhelming majority of trainers teaching concealed carry in Ohio.

Under the current law, the duty to "promptly" notify an officer is subject to interpretation based on any given individual's concept of the word *promptly*. In addition to that, exactly how many of the officers responding to the scene require "prompt notification"? The responding officer, the second officer on scene, the fourth who arrives 20 minutes later after the first three have been notified? It's time we remove this threat to punish law abiding citizens for a poorly defined infraction, which can entrap an otherwise legal CCW licensee who has no criminal intent.