

Jayson Woodward © October 2019

License To Carry

I have been most honored to be a speaker at two different License To Carry classes recently. In Texas, to be able to legally carry a pistol, one must be taught and certified in a professional LTC class by a professional, and licensed, instructor. Most instructors have a rich history in law enforcement, armed services, or a combination of both.

The classes generally consist of 4 to 5 hours of classroom instruction, and 4 to 5 hours of firearm training on a range. The classroom covers topics such as legal issues, which types of public places where firearms are and aren't permitted, the responsibilities of firearm owners, and safety issues.

The range instruction covers accurately firing your weapon from 3 yards, 5 yards, and 7 yards at a cardboard target. The 4 main safety issues are constantly and consistently practiced:

1. Treat **EVERY** firearm as if it is loaded.
2. Always keep the gun muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
3. Be sure of your target and what is **BEYOND IT**.
4. Keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until ready to shoot.

My message to people in these classes is twofold. First, as a victim of rape and sexual assault, I remind people that, yes, it can happen to you. At times we all tend to see the world as a safer place than it is, to deny the existence of pure evil, and to rationalize that 'bad things happen to other people, not to me.' Women especially need to become adept at considering their surroundings and taking inventory of safe exits should the worst occur. I like to congratulate everyone for taking the first step in becoming proactive in their own defense.

The next message is to assure participants that, if they, too, have been a victim of a violent crime, there are many ways to leave the culture of victimhood you were thrust into, and to become the survivor and thriver you want to be. The first step is making the decision that you, and you alone, are responsible for your own health, safety, and further growth.

I invite you to join with millions of other women in becoming competent to own and use a firearm. Classes are offered regularly and in many places. There are special classes for women only. With a little research you can find exactly the

right class that suits your needs. In the process you'll discover a new, more responsible and confident YOU. JOIN US!!!