



NATIONAL FIREARMS AMNESTY 2024

DECLARATION OF AN AMNESTY BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 43 (3) OF THE FIREARMS ACT 1995 (CAP 386), as amended.

By virtue of the powers vested in section 43 (3) of the Firearms Act of 1995, as amended the Governor General hereby declares an Amnesty within the State of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Be it further declared the period during which persons may be granted amnesty is **ninety-one (91) days**, commencing on **March 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024**.

OBJECTIVE/AIM:

The objective is to enhance and improve community safety and security by reducing the ongoing threat of illegally held firearms and ammunition in the state, as well as reducing the likelihood of such firearms falling into the hands of criminals as a result of break-ins, thefts or accidental loss.

The National Firearms Amnesty seeks to achieve this objective by allowing persons the opportunity to surrender to the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, firearms and ammunition which they hold without the benefit of a licence or permit granted under Section 4 (3) of the Firearms Act, without fear of prosecution for contravention of the Firearm Act. The Amnesty also extends to replica or imitation firearms, ammunition and any parts of firearms.

INTENTION:

The Amnesty is intended to lower the risk of violent offences involving illegally held firearms by safely collecting and disposing of them.

CONSULTATION:

There will be a period of Public Consultation from January to February 2024, before the Firearms Amnesty becomes operationalized.

GUIDELINES:

As part of the amnesty, persons may dispose of illegally held firearms and ammunition without incurring any legal penalty or having to give personal details. Being in possession of firearms and ammunition without a licence or permit currently risks a fine of up to \$20,000 and imprisonment of up to 7 years, or both. (Section 4 (3) of the Firearms Act)

The conditions under which amnesty may be granted are declared as follows:

- (a) Illegally held firearms and ammunition may be handed to any Police Officer or agent. This is a “NO QUESTIONS ASKED” gun turn-in. No information will be recorded in any police reports in relation to the item(s) surrendered under this Amnesty. Any agent will enjoy the full protection of the Amnesty.

An agent is listed as follow:

- Minister of Religion
- Justice of the Peace
- Lawyer or Solicitor
- Parliamentarian
- Head Teacher
- Firearm Dealer

- (b) Any person surrendering an illegally held firearm or ammunition may do so anonymously. No personal contact information or details will be taken or recorded..

- (c) From March 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024, members of the public are encouraged to contact any Police Station or any agent listed in section (a) above, to arrange to surrender illegally held firearms and ammunitions.

- (d) During the period of the Firearm Amnesty, police will not prefer any charges against those persons in the act of surrendering illegally held firearms or ammunition.
- (e) Compensation will not be offered for firearms and ammunition surrendered through the Amnesty.
- (f) The protection of the Amnesty is only available to persons in the act of surrendering illegally held firearms or ammunition to the Police or such agent as is identified above.
- (g) The Amnesty does not apply for persons who maintain possession of an illegally held firearm or ammunition beyond the period of the Amnesty.
- (h) Any firearm located as part of a deceased estate may be surrendered as part of the Amnesty.

SCHEDULE A FIREARM/AMMUNITION PICKUP:

To surrender an illegally held firearm or ammunition, please refer to section (a) under guidelines, call the Firearm Registry at Central Police Station (telephone number 457-1211) or contact your local Police Station. Inform the Police of your intention to surrender the illegally held firearm or ammunition.

By pre-arrangement, police officers will attend to pick up any illegally held firearm or ammunition from the homes of residents who wish to surrender them or from any of the agents listed in section (a) to whom illegally held firearms or ammunition have been handed.

A member of the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force will contact you by telephone within three (3) days to confirm a time and date to retrieve your surrendered item(s). A plain-clothed Police Officer will attend the pick-up location in an unmarked vehicle at the scheduled date/time.

Collection dates will be announced daily in each police district.

Follow the advice of the police as they facilitate the collection.


Note: Members of the public or agents must NOT transport firearms to police stations, detachments or offices. Instead, call the Firearm Registry at Central Station or your local Police Station and you will be given instructions on how and when the firearms and ammunition will be collected.

The Amnesty is all about illegally held firearms and ammunition. There is already in place a regular procedure for surrendering a valid firearms licence. Legally-owned firearms and ammunition can only be surrendered by the registered owner or authorized party (i.e. Executor, Power of Attorney, Firearm Dealer).

HOW TO SURRENDER AN UNAUTHORISED FIREARM/WEAPON:

- (1) The firearm/weapon must be unloaded.
- (2) If you are unsure how to unload the firearm ask the collecting Police Officer for assistance.
- (3) Place the firearm or ammunition in a black plastic bag and tape it closed to prevent alarm.
- (4) Accessories such as parts may be surrendered at the same time, but must be placed in a separate black plastic bag or container.
- (5) Delivery and pick-up of firearms/weapons are to be done during daylight hours.

SLOGAN - KEEP THE COUNTRY SAFE FROM ILLEGALLY HELD FIREARMS



Envill L. Williams

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (Ag.)