

California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Stephen Woolery, Chief 		INFORMATION BULLETIN	
Subject: Important Notice Regarding California Law Prohibition of National Firearms Act (NFA)-Regulated Firearms	No. 2026-DLE-16	Contact for information: Bureau of Firearms (916) 210-2300	
	Date: 09/18/2026		

TO: ALL CALIFORNIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, COUNTY COUNSELS, AND CITY ATTORNEYS; CENTRALIZED LIST OF FIREARMS DEALERS, MANUFACTURERS, EXEMPT FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES, AND GUN SHOW PROMOTERS

This bulletin informs stakeholders that California’s state law restrictions on the sale and possession of silencers, short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns, and firearms not immediately recognizable as a firearm, remain in effect.

On August 5, 2026, a federal judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas held provisions of the National Firearms Act (NFA) unconstitutional as applied to several plaintiff groups and states in *Silencer Shop Foundation v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*. 2026 WL 2255460 (N.D. Tex. Aug. 5, 2026). The court specifically limited its holding about the federal NFA to apply only to members of the following plaintiff groups: Gun Owners Foundation; Gun Owners of America, Inc.; Silencer Shop Foundation; Silencerco Weapons Research, LLC; Firearms Regulatory Accountability Coalition Inc; B&T USA, LLC; Palmetto State Armory, LLC; the States, agencies, and political subdivisions of West Virginia, Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, Indiana, South Dakota, Kansas, Georgia, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Montana, Alaska, and Louisiana; Hot Shots Custom, LLC; Texas State Rifle Association; FPC Action Foundation; Citizens Committee For The Right To Keep And Bear Arms; and several private citizens. *Id.* at *4–5, 27–30. The federal government did not immediately seek to pause this ruling with the federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, but may still appeal the decision. In the meantime, this ruling is in effect as to the plaintiff groups described above.

This district court ruling regarding the federal NFA does not change the fact that many NFA-regulated devices remain illegal to possess or sell under California law. This includes silencers (Pen. Code, § 33410), short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns (Pen. Code, § 33215), and firearms not immediately recognizable as a firearm (Pen. Code, §§ 24510, 16590). Violations of these provisions can be felony or misdemeanor offenses.

Accordingly, silencers, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and firearms not immediately recognizable as firearms remain illegal to possess or sell in California under the state Penal Code, including for members of the plaintiff groups in *Silencer Shop Foundation v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives*.

California Firearms Dealers must ensure that all staff members who process Dealer Record of Sale transactions are informed of this bulletin. Additionally, Gun Show Producers must ensure all firearms dealers participating

in their event or gun show comply with California laws governing silencers, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and firearms not immediately recognizable as firearms.

California Civil Code section 3273.51 requires any firearm industry member, including federally licensed firearm dealers, to implement reasonable controls to ensure that they comply with all provisions of California law. *See also* Civ. Code § 3273.50 (defining the relevant terms).

If you have questions, please contact the Bureau of Firearms, Customer Support Center at (916) 210-2300 or Firearms.Bureau@doj.ca.gov.