



# Beaufort County Sheriff's Office

## Report on Firearms-related Charges

July 2021

Since 2010, deputies have filed **1,558** weapons-related charges in General Sessions court, **65 percent** of which were committed by repeat offenders or offenders who received multiple charges in a single arrest.

As of July 2021, **23 percent** of these charges are awaiting their outcomes in court.

### Outcomes ...

- **Dismissed/not prosecuted:** 66 percent
- **Plea deals:** 32 percent
- **Jury trials:** 2 percent (two-thirds ended in guilty verdicts)

### Top 5 weapons-related charges filed by the Sheriff's Office ...

1. **Unlawful carrying of a Pistol:** 38 percent
2. **Possession of a Firearm/Weapon during a Violent Crime:** 21 percent
3. **Possession of a Stolen Firearm/Weapon:** 16 percent
4. **Pointing and Presenting Firearms at a Person:** 12 percent
5. **Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Convicted of a Violent Felony:** 6 percent

# Supporting Data

*All information has been taken from the 14th Circuit Beaufort County Public Index, which is available to the public. The data does not account for charges expunged prior to 2021.*

Beaufort County law enforcement agencies have filed **2,507** weapons-related charges in General Sessions Court since 2010. Of those, **1,634** – or **65 percent** – were committed by repeat offenders or offenders who received multiple charges in a single incident.

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **1,558** weapons-related charges – or **62 percent** of total weapons-related charges in the county. As of July 2021, **363** of those charges are awaiting adjudication.

Of the remaining **1,195** charges filed by the Sheriff's Office, **784** – or **66 percent** – were not prosecuted.

- **490** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **255** were dismissed
- **13** were remanded to a lower court
- **9** were dismissed at the preliminary hearing
- **7** were failure to appear
- **5** were dismissed after grand jury indictment
- **3** were failure to comply
- **1** received a No Bill from the grand jury
- **1** was dismissed by a judge

The **411** cases that were prosecuted include:

- **380** plea deals
  - **30** pleas were to lesser charges
- **31** trials
  - **22** guilty verdicts
  - **9** not guilty verdicts

# By Offense

## Unlawful Carrying of a Pistol

[16-23-0020](#)

Since 2010, **1,038 charges** have been filed by all law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **41 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed since 2010.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **595** Unlawful Carrying of a Pistol charges since 2010. Of those, **175** are awaiting adjudication. One of those cases is listed as "Reopened."

Of the Sheriff's Office's **420** adjudicated cases, **190** were not prosecuted — or **45 percent**.

- **122** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **61** were dismissed
- **3** were remanded to a lower court
- **2** were failure to appear
- **1** was dismissed after grand jury indictment
- **1** was dismissed at the preliminary hearing

Of the **230** cases that were prosecuted, **100 percent** ended in plea deals. Nine of those cases were pleas to reduced charges.

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## Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime

[16-23-0490](#)

Since 2010, **467** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **19 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **332** Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime charges since 2010. Of those, **71** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the Sheriff's Office's **261** adjudicated cases, **209** were not prosecuted – or **80 percent**.

- **148** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **49** were dismissed
- **3** were remanded to a lower court
- **3** were dismissed at the preliminary hearing
- **3** were failure to comply
- **1** was dismissed after indictment
- **1** was failure to appear
- **1** was dismissed by a judge

The **52** cases that were prosecuted include:

- **27** plea deals
  - **3** pleaded guilty to reduced charges
- **25** trials
  - **16** guilty verdicts
  - **9** not guilty verdict

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## **Possession of a Stolen Pistol**

[16-23-0030](#)

Since 2010, **415** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **17 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **255** Possession of a Stolen Weapon charges since 2010. Of those, **36** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the Sheriff's Office's **219** adjudicated cases, **180** were not prosecuted – or **82 percent**.

- **97** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **78** were dismissed
- **2** were dismissed at the preliminary hearing
- **2** were failure to appear
- **1** was remanded to a lower court

The **39** cases that were prosecuted include:

- **37** plea deals
  - **8** pleaded guilty to reduced charges
- **2** trials that ended with guilty verdicts

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## **Pointing and Presenting a Firearm at a Person**

[16-23-0410](#)

Since 2010, **269** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **11 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **190** Pointing and Presenting a Firearm at a Person charges since 2010. Of those, **27** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **163** adjudicated cases, **106** were not prosecuted – or **65 percent**.

- **72** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **27** were dismissed
- **5** were remanded to a lower court
- **1** was dismissed after grand jury indictment
- **1** was failure to appear

The **57** cases that were prosecuted include:

- **56** plea deals
  - **8** pleaded guilty to reduced charges
- **1** trial that ended with a guilty verdict

## **Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Convicted of a Felony**

[16-23-0500](#)

Since 2010, **189** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **8 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **99** Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Convicted of a Felony charges since 2010. Of those, **40** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **59** adjudicated cases, **47** were not prosecuted – or **80 percent**.

- **15** were Nolle Prossedi (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **29** were dismissed
- **3** were dismissed at the preliminary hearing

The **12** cases that were prosecuted include:

- **10** plea deals
  - **1** pleaded guilty to a reduced charge
- **2** trials that ended with guilty verdicts

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## **Discharging Firearm into a Dwelling**

[16-23-0440\(A\)](#)

Since 2010, **36** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **1 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **34** Discharging Firearm into a Dwelling charges since 2010. Of those, **13** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **21** adjudicated cases, **14** were not prosecuted – or **67 percent**.

- **13** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **1** was dismissed

The **7** cases all ended in plea deals.

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## **Carrying a Weapon on a School Property**

[16-23-0430](#)

Since 2010, **27** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **1 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **18** Carrying a Weapon on a School Property charges since 2010. Of those, **none** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **18** adjudicated cases, **17** were not prosecuted – or **94 percent**.

- **9** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **4** were dismissed
- **2** were dismissed after grand jury indictment
- **1** was remanded to a lower court
- **1** received a No Bill from the grand jury

The **1** case that was prosecuted ended in a plea deal.

## **Unlawful Storage, Keeping, Possessing of a Machine Gun or Sawed-Off Shotgun or Rifle**

[16-23-0230](#)

Since 2010, **25** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **1 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **14** Unlawful Storage, Keeping, Possessing of a Machine Gun or Sawed-Off Shotgun or Rifle charges since 2010. Of those, **none** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **14** adjudicated cases, **7** were not prosecuted – or **50 percent**.

- **6** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **1** was dismissed

The **7** cases that were prosecuted ended in plea deals.

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## **Discharging Firearm into Vehicle, Aircraft, Etc while Occupied**

[16-23-0440\(B\)](#)

Since 2010, **15** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **.6 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **9** Discharging Firearm into Vehicle, Aircraft, Etc while Occupied charges since 2010. Of those, **none** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **9** adjudicated cases, **7** were not prosecuted – or **78 percent**.

- **4** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **3** were dismissed

The **2** cases that were prosecuted ended in plea deals.



## **Use of a Firearm while Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs**

### [23-31-0400](#)

Since 2010, **6** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **.2 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **5** Use of a Firearm while Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs charges since 2010. Of those, **1** is awaiting adjudication.

Of the **4** adjudicated cases, **4** were not prosecuted – or **100 percent**.

- **2** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **1** was dismissed
- **1** was failure to appear

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## **Additional Penalty for Gun on Premises where Alcohol is Sold**

### [16-23-0465\(A\)](#)

Since 2010, **5** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **.2 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **2** Additional Penalty for Gun on Premises where Alcohol is Sold charges since 2010. Of those, **none** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **2** adjudicated cases, **1** was not prosecuted – or **50 percent**.

- **1** was Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)

The **1** case that was prosecuted ended in a plea deal.

## **Carrying Concealed Weapon, Not a Pistol**

[16-23-0460](#)

Since 2010, **4** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **.2 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **3** Carrying Concealed Weapon, Not a Pistol charges since 2010. Of those, **none** are awaiting adjudication.

Of the **3** adjudicated cases, **1** was not prosecuted – or **33 percent**.

- **1** was Nolle Prosequi (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)

The **2** cases that were prosecuted ended in a plea deals.

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## **Carrying or Displaying Firearms in Public Buildings or Adjacent Areas**

[16-23-0420](#)

Since 2010, **3** charges have been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **.1 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed **1** Carrying or Displaying Firearms in Public Buildings or Adjacent Areas charge since 2010. That case ended in a plea deal.

**Unlawful for a Person Convicted of DV 2nd and 3rd degree, etc.,  
to Ship, Transport, Possess or Receive Firearm or Ammunition**

[16-25-0030\(A\)\(2\)](#)

Since 2010, **1** charge has been filed by law enforcement agencies in Beaufort County General Sessions Court. This represents **.04 percent** of all weapons-related charges filed.

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office filed the single Unlawful for a Person Convicted of DV 2nd and 3rd degree, etc., to Ship, Transport, Possess or Receive Firearm or Ammunition charge. That case was dismissed.

