



Select Rhode Island Mandatory Minimum Laws

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is not necessarily a complete list. Laws frequently change, and these sentences may no longer be accurate or up to date. Talk with a lawyer in your state if you have questions.

Drug Offenses

In 2009, Rhode Island repealed many of their mandatory minimum laws, particularly for drug offenses. For more information, please see The Providence Journal's article on the changes, <http://newsblog.projo.com/2009/11/ri-eliminates-mandatory-minimu.html>.

Weapons Offenses

Code Section	Offense	Mandatory Minimum Sentence
§ 11-47-3	Committing or attempting to commit a crime of violence while armed with a firearm, explosive substance, noxious liquid, gas, substance, or acid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First conviction - Second conviction - Third conviction 	3 Years 10 Years 15 Years
§ 11-47-3.2(a)	Using a firearm to commit a crime of violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First conviction - First conviction, and gun is a machine gun - Second conviction - Second conviction, and gun is a machine gun - Third conviction - Third conviction, and gun is a machine gun 	10 Years 30 Years 20 Years Life* Life* or Life without Parole Life* or Life without Parole
§ 11-47-3.2(b)(1)	Discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, and no injury to any other person results from the discharge	10 Years, added to the sentence for the underlying crime
§ 11-47-3.2(b)(2)	Discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, and someone besides a police officer is injured by the discharge, or a police officer who is engaged in performance of his/her duties is deliberately endangered by the discharge	20 Years, added to the sentence for the underlying crime



Weapons Offenses, cont.

Code Section	Offense	Mandatory Minimum Sentence
§ 11-47-3.2(b)(3)	Discharging a firearm during a crime of violence, and a police officer is injured by the discharge, or death or permanent incapacity of any person results	Life*, added to the sentence for the underlying crime
§ 11-47-5(d)	Possession of a firearm by someone who has been convicted of a crime of violence, or is a fugitive from justice, or has been convicted of a domestic violence felony less than 2 years before, or who is in community confinement or is subject to monitoring devices or electronic surveillance as a condition of parole	2 Years
§ 11-47-51.1(a)(2)	Discharging a firearm or incendiary or explosive substance or device from a motor vehicle in a manner which creates a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another person	10 Years**

*Individuals sentenced to life under this section are eligible for parole unless the judge sentences them to life without the possibility of parole, after consideration of aggravating and mitigating circumstances listed in §§ 12-19.2-3 and 12-19.2-4.

**This mandatory sentence can be avoided through a safety valve in § 11-47-51.1(2). Please see <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE11/11-47/11-47-51.1.HTM> or Rhode Island Safety Valves at FAMM's website, www.famm.org.