

## **Examining Arizona Gun Law**

The anger and awareness that have spread from the Tucson shootings have aroused a necessary question: should Arizona gun laws be changed?

Gun control and the right to bear arms has consistently been a hot topic that brings about passionate debate. As a resident of Arizona may be well aware of, the state's somewhat lenient gun laws allow an individual to legally carry a concealed weapon. Compared to other states, Arizona does have relatively "lax" statutes defining the legality of carrying around a gun or other weapon. However, this is not to say that Arizona's gun laws led to this senseless incident.

According to both federal and state laws, charged shooter Jared Lee Loughner purchased his gun legally; he used a high-capacity magazine in his weapon that is legal to both buy and sell in Arizona. However, there are certain federal laws in place that arguably should have prevented Loughner from owning his firearm; for instance, the mentally ill are prohibited from purchasing a gun, as well as those who have a history of drug use.

Loughner reportedly had a history of seeing mental health professionals and drug use; however, in order for his right to have been revoked, his mental health would have had to have been determined by a judge. Furthermore, his drug usage and/or addiction have yet to be verified, making his history unreported and his firearm legally owned.

The case is still in its beginning stages and the situation still requires an objective eye to determine whether or not Arizona gun laws require any changes. Unfortunately, even the strictest gun laws cannot completely prevent the mentally unstable or the criminal from violating them. A possible change that may be made to the law could be to limit the types of magazines that are legal to buy and sell, but it is far too early to tell whether or not the law will be touched.

For now, any Phoenix criminal attorney, resident of Arizona, and supporters nationwide are encouraged to support and pray for the individuals and families affected by this crime.