

**Commission General
Regulation 506**

**POSSESSION OF A
GOLDEN EAGLE
UNDER CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES**

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Regulations are the result of passage of **SB 125 in the 81st Legislative Session**

SB 125 changed NRS 503.610 to allow for possession of a golden eagle if the golden eagle:

- **Is obtained for rehabilitation in accordance with federal law (50 CFR 22)**
- **Is obtained in another state in accordance with federal law (50 CFR 22.26), including through the federal depredation permit lottery system**
- **Is legally possessed in another state and the master falconer moves to Nevada**
- **Is transferred to a master falconer from another master falconer in Nevada or another state if the Department authorizes the transfer**



Section 2: Eagle Permit (page 3):

- Issued by the Department
- Authorizes a master falconry licensee to transport, transfer possess or use a golden eagle in falconry

Section 3.1 (page 3-4):

Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person shall not possess a golden eagle ~~that is obtained from the wild~~ or use a golden eagle in falconry unless the person:



Section 3.1 Stipulations:

- Has a valid master falconry license issued the Department
- Has a valid eagle permit
- Has a current and valid hunting license
- If rehabilitating an eagle, has a valid permit to rehabilitate raptors
- **While in possession of a golden eagle, must possess a copy of a valid hunting license, master falconry license, eagle permit, and rehabilitation permit if applicable.**

(d) If the person rehabilitates a golden eagle, has a valid permit to rehabilitate raptors pursuant to NAC 503.315, or must be assisting a raptor rehabilitator pursuant to NAC 503.435.



Section 3.2 Nonresident:

- Holds a valid master falconry license issued by the appropriate agency of the jurisdiction in which the person resides and legally possesses a golden eagle and may use it in falconry
- Possesses a valid nonresident Nevada hunting license
- Obtains written authorization from the Department to practice falconry in Nevada using a golden eagle (see Section 5)

Section 3.3 Person moving to state:

- If person permanently moves to Nevada and lawfully possesses a golden eagle in their former jurisdiction they must:
 - Obtain a Nevada Master Falconry License
 - Obtain an eagle permit
- No later than ~~60~~ **30** days after becoming a resident of Nevada



Section 4: Permit Application: (page 4-6)

- Customary information such as name, mailing address, **and address of eagle's location.**
- ~~Driver's license and social security number~~ **The applicant's Client ID number**
- Copy of current and valid master falconry license
- Copy of current and valid hunting license
- If rehabilitating a golden eagle, a copy of rehabilitation permit **or letter from the licensed rehabilitator who is requesting and authorizing assistance from the applicant.**



Section 4: Permit Application: (continued)

- Two (2) letters of reference from persons who hold master falconry licenses and lawfully possess a golden eagle in Nevada or another state that must include:
 - An assessment of the applicant's ability to care for and fly golden eagles **and**
 - A concise history of the author's experience with golden eagles
- Narrative explanation of the applicant's direct experience with golden eagles or other large raptors
- Proof that the facility to house an eagle conforms to the regulations
- Other information that the Department determines is necessary and related to the applicant housing, caring for, and possessing a golden eagle.

An eagle permit is valid for 1 year and may be renewed by submitting an application:

3. A master falconry licensee with an eagle permit may apply to renew the eagle permit by submitting an application that ~~meets~~ **includes copies of** the requirements set forth in subsection 1 **and submitted with their original approved application.**



Section 5: Nonresident Specifics: (page 6)

- Must be licensed as a master falconer in another state and legally possess a golden eagle
- If they wish to practice falconry in Nevada, they shall submit on the Department's Form:
 - The date or dates on which the person wants to use the golden eagle in Nevada in the practice of falconry
 - The Department will confirm that the requirements in Section 3 are met and will sign and return the form
- Must have in their possession during the hunt:
 - Master falconry license and documentation of legal possession of a golden eagle as issued by their state of residence
 - A Nevada nonresident hunting license
 - The form that signed by the Department



Section 6: Golden Eagle Condition: (page 6-7)

- A master falconry licensee with an eagle permit must ensure that any golden eagle in their possession is in good condition
- A golden eagle is not in good condition if:
 - More than five primary flight feathers are broken
 - More than four tail feathers are broken
 - Body weight of the bird indicates malnourishment
 - Bird has excessive parasite load

If a bird is not in good condition:

- The Department may remove the eagle
- The Department may provide the licensee with an opportunity to improve the condition of the bird, within a 6-month period
 - Provide the Department with written confirmation from a qualified veterinarian that the golden eagle is in good condition
 - OR the Department may remove the eagle
- These provisions do not prohibit a licensee from rehabilitation of an eagle with one or more of these conditions



Section 7: Housing: (page 7)

In addition to the requirements of NAC 503.375 to 503.395, inclusive, a master falconry licensee who has an eagle permit must ensure that each facility that houses an individual golden eagle in his or her possession is ~~at least 12 feet in length, 12 feet in width and 8 feet in height.~~ **large enough to allow the eagle to fly if it is untethered or, if tethered, to fully extend its wings or bate, without damaging its feathers or contacting other raptors.**



Section 8: Rehabilitation Provisions: (page 7-8)

- Shall not possess for more than two (2) years after the date on which the bird was received
- Shall not release the bird into the wild without declaration it is rehabilitated by the Department, licensed veterinarian, or licensed raptor rehabilitator
- If not rehabilitated within two years, the Department must be notified within 30 days of expiration of the 2-year period
 - The Department may authorize possession for more than 2 years
- 4.A rehabilitated golden eagle must be released in a location that is as close as possible to where the golden eagle was captured, taken or removed from the wild, **or at an appropriate location authorized by the Department.**



Section 9: Denial, Suspension or Revocation of an eagle permit if: (page 8)

- Material misstatement or falsification of any document required for an eagle permit
- Failed to provide or maintain the housing and/or care for a golden eagle as required
- Failed to ensure that a golden eagle was maintained in good condition as required
- Has been convicted of violating any provision of NAC 503.200 – 503.470 and this regulation
- Has been convicted of violating any law or regulation of any state or federal government relating to animal welfare or wildlife

May be appealed to the Commission

Section 10: Civil Penalty: (page 9)

- The Department shall impose a civil penalty of \$1000 for violations of subsection 1 of NRS 503.610



Section 11 - 20: Makes conforming changes to existing NAC 503.200 – 503.470

Page 9 and 10:

503.200.14: (Definitions)

As used in NAC 503.200 to 503.470, inclusive, **and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this regulation**, unless the context otherwise requires:

14. “Raptor” means a live migratory bird of the order *Accipitriformes*, *Falconiformes* or *Strigiformes*, other than the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), ~~or the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)~~ regardless of whether the raptor was originally taken from the wild or is a captive-bred raptor, is a hybrid raptor, is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended.....

Page 11:

NAC 503.205.2: The Department shall not issue a license or permit authorizing a person to possess a raptor unless the facility at which the raptor will be housed satisfies the requirements of NAC 503.375 to 503.395, inclusive, **and section 7 of this regulation.**



Section 11 - 20: Makes conforming changes to existing NAC 503.200 – 503.470

Page 12:

NAC 503.205.6.b.(1): Possess feathers for each species of raptor he or she lawfully possesses or has possessed, ~~except that a master falconry licensee who has an eagle permit may only possess primary wing feathers and not more than 12 tail feather of a golden eagle;~~

Page 14:

503.220.5(b): Brings a raptor into this State pursuant to subsection 4, may, **except as otherwise provided in section 3** of this regulations, continue to possess the raptor for not more than 30 days after becoming a resident of this State.....

Page 17:

503.235.7: The Department may deny issuance or renewal of any class of falconry license or permit if the applicant has been convicted of a violation of any provision of NAC 503.200 to 503.470, inclusive, **and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this regulation**. An applicant whose license has been denied may appeal the denial to the Commission.



Section 11 - 20: Makes conforming changes to existing NAC 503.200 – 503.470

Page 19 and 20:

NAC 503.250.3.a: Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (b), **(c) and (d)**, shall not possess more than five raptors taken from the wild nor obtain more than two raptors taken from the wild for replacement during any calendar year.

(b) **Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d)**, may possess a raptor of any species of the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes, including, without limitation, wild, captive-bred or hybrid raptors, except a raptor of a species listed or described in paragraph (b) of subsection 1.

(d) If the master falconry licensee has an eagle permit, except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, may not possess more than two golden eagles of the five raptors that are authorized pursuant to paragraph (a).

4. The Department may authorize a master falconry licensee who has an eagle permit to possess more than two golden eagles if the master falconry licensee is a raptor rehabilitator and is rehabilitating any additional golden eagle. Nothing in this subsection authorizes a master falconry licensee who has an eagle permit to possess more than five raptors.



Section 11 – 20: Makes conforming changes to existing NAC 503.200 – 503.470

Page 20:

NAC 503.260.1(a): To inspect equipment, mews or other raptor housing facilities to ensure compliance with the provisions of NAC 503.375 to 503.395, inclusive, **and section 7 of this regulation**;

(c) To inspect, audit or copy any permit, book or record required to be kept by the provisions of NAC 503.200 to 503.470, inclusive, **and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this regulation** or federal regulations relating to falconry.

Page 22:

NAC 503.305.8(d): **Except as otherwise provided in sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this regulation, golden** eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*);

(f) Stellar's **Stellar's** sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*);

NAC 503.375.1: Each raptor possessed pursuant to NAC 503.200 to 503.470, inclusive, **and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this regulation**, must be housed in humane and healthful conditions.



Section 11 - 20: Makes conforming changes to existing NAC 503.200 – 503.470

Page 23:

NAC 503.460.1: **Except as otherwise provided in section 2** an owner of a raptor that dies may, without limitation:

2. If a golden eagle in the possession of a master falconry licensee dies, the master falconry licensee shall surrender the body and feathers of the golden eagle to the Department not later than 5 business days after the discovery of the death.

Page 24:

NAC 503.470: The provisions of NAC 503.200 to 503.470, inclusive, **and sections 2 to 10, inclusive, of this regulation,** must not be construed to exempt any person from the provisions of any federal law relating to raptors or falconry.



Thank you!

