

Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms

I. Definitions:

A. **Deadly Weapon** means "any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (6).

B. **Firearm** means "any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (19).

C. **Peace Officer** means "a member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a special policeman appointed under section 29-18, 29-18a or 29-19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations unit of the office of the State Treasurer, [an inspector of motor vehicles in the Department of Motor Vehicles, who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, a United States marshal or deputy marshal,](#) any special agent of the federal government authorized to enforce the provisions of Title 21 of the United States Code, or a member of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut created and governed by a memorandum of agreement under section 47-65c who is certified as a police officer by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-3 (9).

34 D. **Real Property** means the land and all temporary and permanent structures
35 comprising the district's elementary and secondary schools, and administrative
36 office buildings. Real property includes, but is not limited to, the following:
37 classrooms, hallways, storage facilities, theatres, gymnasiums, fields and parking
38 lots.

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40 E. **School-Sponsored Activity** "means any activity sponsored, recognized or
41 authorized by a board of education and includes activities conducted on or off
42 school property." Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233a(h).

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44 II. Prohibition of Deadly Weapons and Firearms

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46 In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-28(e) and § 53a-217b, the possession and/or
47 use of a deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of any school or administrative
48 office building in this district, or at a school-sponsored activity, is prohibited, even if the
49 person possessing the deadly weapon or firearm has a permit for such item.

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51 III. Peace Officer Exception

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53 A peace officer engaged in the performance of his or her official duties who is in lawful
54 possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring such item on the real property of any
55 school or administrative office building in this district, or to a school-sponsored activity.

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57 IV. Other Exceptions

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59 Persons in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may possess such item on the
60 real property of any school or administrative office building in this district, or to a school-
61 sponsored activity, if:

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63 A. The person brings the deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of any school
64 or administrative office building or to a school-sponsored activity for use in a
65 program approved by school officials. In such case, the person must give school
66 officials notice of his/her intention to bring such item, and the person must receive
67 prior written permission from school officials.

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69 B. The person possesses the deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of any
70 school or administrative office building or at a school-sponsored activity pursuant
71 to a written agreement with school officials or a written agreement between such
72 person's employer and school officials.

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74 (Optional Exception: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-217b permits school districts to regulate access to
75 school property by hunters in possession of firearms. School districts concerned with this issue
76 should consider including the following paragraph as part of their policy.)

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78 **C. The person possesses the deadly weapon or firearm while crossing school property**
79 **in order to gain access to public or private lands open to hunting or for other lawful**
80 **purposes and entry on such school property is permitted by the Board of Education. In**
81 **the case of a firearm, the person's firearm shall not be loaded.)**

82 (Optional Exception: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244a, “An Act Concerning School Safety” permits
83 school districts to hire a sworn member of an organized local police department or a retired
84 police officer to provide school security and to possess a firearm while in the performance of his
85 or her duties. School districts opting to hire such sworn law enforcement or retired law
86 enforcement officers should ensure that their security program meets all of the requirements of
87 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244a and should consider including the following paragraph as part of
88 their policy.)

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90 **C. An armed security officer employed by the Board of Education to provide security**
91 **services pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-244a engaged in the performance of his or**
92 **her official duties who is in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring**
93 **such item on the real property of any school or administrative office building in this**
94 **district, or to a school-sponsored activity.**

95 V. Consequences

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97 A. Unless subject to one of the exceptions listed above, any person who possesses a
98 deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of an elementary or secondary
99 school in this district, or administrative office building, or at a school-sponsored
100 activity, whether or not the person is lawfully permitted to carry such deadly
101 weapon or firearm, will be reported to the local police authorities once school
102 officials become aware of its possession.

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104 B. A student who possesses and/or uses any deadly weapon or firearm on school
105 property in violation of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with Board
106 of Education Student Discipline Policy.

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108 C. The Board of Education reserves the right to forbid anyone caught possessing a
109 deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of its school buildings or
110 administrative office buildings, or at a school-sponsored activity, from using any
111 and all school facilities.

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114 Second Reading: December 1, 2020
115 Third Reading: December 15, 2020

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117 Legal References:
118 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-233a
119 § 10-244a
120 § 29-28(e)
121 § 53a-3
122 § 53a-217b

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124 ***Note: Under state law, in order to prohibit all persons from carrying deadly weapons and/or***
125 ***firearms onto school property (including persons who hold a legal permit to carry such***
126 ***weapons elsewhere), a school district must affirmatively pass a policy prohibiting such items.***
127 ***The policy above accomplishes this goal. Districts may legally prohibit other weapons as well,***
128 ***but issues exist regarding 1) a district's practical ability to enforce such prohibitions and 2) the***
129 ***definitions used to describe other types of weapons. If a district chooses to enact a wider***
130 ***prohibition on weapons, it is well advised to consult legal counsel for assistance in drafting a***
131 ***policy containing a wider prohibition.***

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