

Firearms and Weapons Policy

The Diocese of Fort Worth is concerned with providing parishioners, volunteers, visitors and employees with a safe place to worship and a productive environment. As such, the Diocese of Fort Worth expressly prohibits any and all acts or threats of violence by or against anyone on Parish, School or other Diocesan (“Diocesan”) facilities.

In addition, the Diocese of Fort Worth strictly prohibits the possession of, exhibiting or threatening to exhibit or to use, or use of any and all weapons, including firearms, on Diocesan premises by anyone whether licensed or unlicensed and whether concealed or visible. Parishioners, volunteers, students and employees are further prohibited from the possession of, exhibiting or threatening to exhibit or to use, or the use of any and all weapons while conducting business on behalf of the Parish/School/Diocese off of Diocesan premises.

All Diocesan locations are required to provide the statutory notice prohibiting bringing concealed weapons and openly carried weapons onto the Diocesan property. The notice must be posted at each building entrance, on Diocesan locations’ websites (including homepages of parishes and schools), and annually in published literature (i.e. parish bulletin, school newsletter).

Rationale:

In 1996, the Texas Legislature approved the carrying of concealed handguns, but the law prohibited them from being carried on Church and School premises. In 2016, the law was amended to allow the open carry of handguns and the statute left the prohibitions in place. However, for the law to take effect on Diocesan property effective notice must be given.

Specific Information	
<i>Effective Notice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Diocesan locations must post a minimum of two signs at every entrance. • All Diocesan locations must post a notice on the homepage of their website • Annually, all Diocesan locations must publish a notice in their literature (i.e. bulletin, school newsletter)
<i>Sign Requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs must contain the required language in both English and Spanish. • Signs must appear in contrasting colors (black and white recommended). • Signs must be printed with block letters that are at least one inch in height. • Signs must be displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public at each entrance to the buildings. • A minimum of two signs must be posted at each entrance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first sign must read “PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN) A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

	<p style="text-align: center;">CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.06 DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASAR PORTANDO ARMAS DE FUEGO) PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO DEL SUBCAPITULO H, CAPITULO 411, CODIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY DE PORTAR ARMAS), NO DEBEN ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The second sign must read “PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY. <p style="text-align: center;">DE CONFORMIDAD CON LA SECCIÓN 30.07, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASO DE UNA PERSONA CON LICENCIA CON UNA ARMA DE FUEGO VISIBLE), UNA PERSONA CON LICENCIA BAJO EL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY DE LICENCIAS DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO PODRÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UNA ARMA DE FUEGO QUE SEA LLEVADA VISIBLEMENTE.</p>
<i>Website publication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Diocesan locations are required to have the statutory language, as detailed above, in both English and Spanish, posted on the homepage of their website.
<i>Bulletin Announcements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least annually, each location must publish in its bulletin, newsletter, or other publication that firearms and weapons are prohibited from Diocesan locations. The publication must include, in English and Spanish, the language required to be posted on the signs, as detailed above.
<i>Incident Procedure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should someone discover an individual carrying a gun while on Diocesan premises, someone should inform the nearest employee, usher, security guard, or priest. • The employee, priest, or usher should (calmly and kindly) inform the individual that carrying a firearm, even if they are a license holder, is forbidden on the property. The individual must leave the premises immediately and may return without the firearm or weapon. The individual may leave it in their car in the parking lot. • Should the offending individual refuse to follow the request, the priest, employee, or usher should step away and immediately call the police. Under no circumstances should a priest, employee, or usher try to enforce the prohibition beyond informing the offending individual that the weapons are forbidden. Leave the enforcement to the police or security guard.