

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 unless the individual is an active member of law enforcement or the Guardian Ministry.

All Diocesan locations are required to provide the statutory notice prohibiting bringing concealed weapons and openly carried weapons onto the Diocesan property when security personnel is present. The notice must be posted on portable signs in a conspicuous location so that lawful gun owners are able to heed the warning when security personnel is present.

Specific Information	
<i>Effective Notice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Diocesan locations must post portable signs in a conspicuous location when security personnel is present. • All Diocesan schools must post signs near entry ways, and no one may carry a weapon on school premises unless they are active law enforcement or have effective consent to carry a weapon on school property.
<i>Sign Requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs must be displayed in a conspicuous location when security personnel is present. • Signs must include language from section 30.05, 30.06 and 30.07 of the Texas Penal Code.
<i>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 Guardian minister, employee, usher, security guard, or priest. • The employee, priest, or usher should inform a Guardian minister or (calmly and kindly) inform the individual that carrying a firearm, even if they are a license holder, is forbidden on the property while security personnel is present. The individual must leave the premises immediately and may return without the firearm or weapon. • Should the offending individual refuse to follow the request, the Guardian minister, priest, employee or usher should step away and immediately call the police. • Under no circumstances should a Guardian minister, priest, employee, or usher try to enforce the prohibition beyond informing the offending individual that the weapons are forbidden, and they will be trespassed from the property unless they comply with the legal directive. Leave the enforcement to the police or security guard.
<i>Resources</i>	<p>https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/pe/pdf/pe.30.pdf</p>