

# Firearms Policy

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## Purpose

The School of Medicine (hereinafter “School”) has developed guidelines in order to ensure a safe and violence free environment for faculty, staff, learners, patients and visitors in conjunction with the Firearm Concealed and Carry Act (430 ILCS 66/1 etc.).

## Definitions

**Concealed Firearm:** means a loaded or unloaded handgun carried on or about a person completely or mostly concealed from view of the public or on or about a person within a vehicle.

**Firearm:** is defined as a loaded or unloaded handgun.

**Handgun:** means any device which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas, or escape of gas that is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand.

**Law Enforcement Agency:** means any federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, including offices of State’s Attorneys and the Office of the Attorney General.

**Licensee:** means a person issued a license to carry a concealed handgun.

## Prohibited Activity

An employee, learner, patient, visitor and licensee shall not carry a firearm or weapon on or onto any building, classroom, laboratory, medical clinic, hospital, entertainment venue, officially recognized university-related organization property (including SIU HC), including parking areas, sidewalks, and common areas under the control of the School. In addition, said individuals are prohibited from displaying, brandishing, discharging or otherwise using any and all weapons or firearms, including concealed weapons or firearms on property owned or controlled by the School. Furthermore, said individuals shall be prohibited from carrying a firearm within a vehicle owned, leased, or controlled by the School.

## Exception

Law enforcement officers from the School or external Law Enforcement Agency who are required to carry a weapon or firearm as a condition of his or her employment are allowed to

arm themselves in order to carry out their job responsibilities. No storage of firearms, handguns or weapons will be allowed at the School or SIU HC.

## **Violations and Penalties**

Any individual visiting, conducting business at the School or receiving medical treatment on the property of the School who is found to have carried a weapon or firearm onto property owned or controlled by the School may be banned from the School or SIU HealthCare property.

Any learner found to have carried a weapon or firearm onto property owned or controlled by the School or SIU HealthCare may be subject to discipline up to and including, but not limited to, expulsion from the School.

Any employee found to have carried a weapon or firearm onto property owned or controlled by the School or SIU HealthCare may be subject to discipline up to and including, but not limited to, immediate termination of employment, subject to University and School rules and regulations and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Said individuals referenced above who are in violation of these guidelines/plan/policy may be subject to possible arrest and prosecution at the discretion of law enforcement agencies.

## **Parking**

A Licensee shall be permitted to carry a concealed firearm on or about his or her person within a vehicle into a parking area of the School and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area. A Licensee may carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle within a prohibited parking lot area only for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicle's trunk.

Case includes a glove compartment or console that completely encloses the concealed firearm or ammunition, the trunk of the vehicle, or a firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container.

## **Public Right of Way Exception**

A Licensee shall not be in violation of the Firearm Concealed and Carry Act or this Plan/Policy while he or she is traveling along a public right of way that touches or crosses the premises of the School if the concealed firearm is carried on his or her person in accordance with the provisions of the Act or is being transported in a vehicle by the licensee in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Act as outlined in this Plan/Policy.

## **Signage**

Signs stating that the carrying of firearms is prohibited shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at the entrance of a building, premises, or real property of the School or SIU HC. Signs shall be of a uniform design and size as established by the Act and Department of State Police. The Department of State Police shall adopt rules for standardized signs to be followed and used by the School and SIU HC.

## **Director of Security Reporting Requirements**

Pursuant to Board of Trustee Policy 7(L) and as provided in the Firearm Concealed Carry Act, 430 ILCS 66/105, and the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code, 405 ILCS 5/6-103.3 the Director of Environmental Safety and Security shall report to the Department of State Police when a learner is determined to pose a clear and present danger to himself, herself, or to others, within 24 hours of the determination as provided in Section 6-103.3 of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code. "Clear and present danger" has the meaning as provided in paragraph (2) of the definition of "clear and present danger" in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/1.1). Pursuant to Section 1.1, of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, "clear and present danger" means a person who: (1) communicates a serious threat of physical violence against a reasonably identifiable victim or poses a clear and imminent risk of serious physical injury to himself, herself, or another person as determined by a physician, clinical psychologist, or qualified examiner; or (2) demonstrates threatening physical or verbal behavior, such as violent, suicidal, or assaultive threats, actions, or other behavior, as determined by a physician, clinical psychologist, qualified examiner, school administrator, or law enforcement official. The Dean and Provost of the School hereby designates to the School's Director of Security the ability to make such determinations, in consultation with qualified health care professionals when appropriate, and reports as required by law. No provision of this Policy shall be construed to in any way alter the duty of a physician, clinical psychologist, or qualified examiner to report to the Illinois Department of Human Services any person that in the professional judgment of the physician, clinical psychologist, or qualified examiner poses a clear and present danger as defined by the Mental Health and Development Disabilities Code.

## **CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

- Illinois State Statutes
- Northern Illinois University Concealed Carry-University Policy