

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY WEAPONS POLICY

Section 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. "Weapon" is defined as any firearm designed or intended to expel a projectile by action of an explosion of a combustible material.
- B. "Concealed weapon" is defined as any weapon that is hidden from common observance while being on or about a person. A weapon is deemed hidden from common observation when it appears so deceptively as to disguise the weapon's true nature.
- C. "Prop weapon" is defined as any item which looks like a weapon.
- D. "University property" is defined as any building or land owned or leased by Liberty University or subject to its control.
- E. "Residence halls" is defined as the buildings on University property used to house students.
- F. "University facilities" is defined as the spaces on University property with defined enclosures for a designated use, such as an academic building, a residence hall, a theatre, an athletic field or stadium, but University facilities do not include open spaces, parking lots and recreational trails, even when those areas are enclosed by fencing or walls.

Section 2. WEAPONS ON UNIVERSITY PROPERTY GENERALLY PROHIBITED

- A. Except as authorized pursuant to this policy, no person shall possess, store, carry, display or unlawfully use any weapon, or possess or carry a concealed weapon, on University property or in University facilities.
- B. Any prop weapon shall not be utilized for any purpose on University property or in University facilities without being approved by LUPD prior to being used in any activity.

Section 3. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY WEAPON

- A. Police officers, other law enforcement officers, and other government personnel authorized to carry a weapon may carry their weapons on University property and in University facilities, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- B. Licensed security officers who are authorized to carry a weapon and approved by the Liberty University Police Department (LUPD) to carry a weapon, may

carry their weapons on University property and in University facilities, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

- C. Faculty and staff of Liberty University, including student employees, who hold a valid concealed weapons permit recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and who are approved by LUPD to carry a concealed weapon, may possess and carry such concealed weapon on University property and in University facilities, and may store the approved weapon in a secured container or compartment in their vehicle or office while on University property. Faculty and staff members, such as Resident Directors, who live in residence hall apartments may store their approved weapons within a secured container in their dwelling unit but weapons may not otherwise be stored in residence halls. The approved weapon shall never be openly carried except while necessary for its lawful use.
- D. Students of Liberty University who are not also employees of Liberty University, who hold a valid concealed weapons permit recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and who are approved by LUPD to carry a concealed weapon, may possess and carry such concealed weapon on University property and all University facilities except residence halls, and may store the approved weapon in a secured container or compartment in their vehicle while on University property. Except as permitted in Section 3 C, no weapons may be stored in residence halls. The approved weapon shall never be openly carried except while necessary for its lawful use.
- E. Visitors to Liberty University who are not faculty, staff or students of Liberty University, and who hold a valid concealed weapons permit recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, may possess and carry such concealed weapon on University property and in University facilities, and may store the approved weapon in a secured container or compartment in their vehicle while on University property. The approved weapon shall never be openly carried except while necessary for its lawful use.

Section 4. PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY WEAPON

- A. LUPD shall revoke approval and not approve or permit any person to possess, store, or carry a weapon or concealed weapon on University property who:
 - (1) does not comply with this policy;
 - (2) is on probation for violation of any academic or honor code, or of the Liberty Way, or Liberty University Student Honor Code;
 - (3) has been arrested for or charged with any assault, battery, stalking, crime of violence, or a felony, and has such case pending;
 - (4) has been convicted of assault, battery, stalking, any crime of violence, or a felony;

- (5) is restricted or restrained from contacting or communicating with another person pursuant to a no-contact directive or restraining order from the University or from any court or agency; or
- (6) is disapproved by Liberty University or LUPD for any other reason.

B. Written Requests Regarding Another's Carry Privilege:

- (1) Any Liberty University student, faculty or staff may submit a written request to LUPD requesting that LUPD not approve or permit another person to carry a concealed weapon on University property.
- (2) For good cause, LUPD shall deny approval of such person to carry a concealed weapon on University property, or shall restrict or revoke prior approval to carry a concealed weapon on University property.
- (3) In such cases, final determination of whether to approve, restrict or revoke a person's privilege to carry a concealed weapon on University property shall be made by LUPD.

Section 5. PROCEDURE TO APPROVE PERSONS TO CARRY WEAPON

- A. To obtain permission to possess, store, or carry a concealed weapon pursuant to this policy, a person must submit a complete application to LUPD to carry a concealed weapon on University property and be approved prior to bringing a weapon upon University property.
- B. To complete the application, the person must:
 - (1) contact LUPD by phone, email, or in person at the LUPD office (contact information as follows: (434) 592-7641, LUPD@liberty.edu, 1971 University Blvd, Green Hall, Terrace Level Suite 700) to request an application, which shall be delivered by LUPD as soon as practicable;
 - (2) provide LUPD with a copy of the person's valid concealed weapons permit that is recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia;
 - (3) provide the person's name, date of birth, current residential address, phone, email and, if applicable, proof of current faculty, staff or student status; and
 - (4) provide the make, model and caliber of the concealed weapon the person desires to carry, its serial number, if any, and any other distinguishing information about the concealed weapon that will enable LUPD to match it to the applicant.
- C. Within 15 business days of submitting a complete application, LUPD shall provide the person with a written response indicating whether the person is authorized to carry a concealed weapon or not, and if not, stating the reason(s) for denial. LUPD's authorization to carry a concealed weapon may not extend beyond the expiration date of the applicant's concealed weapons permit.

- D. LUPD shall keep its records regarding applications and approvals of weapons permits confidential from all third parties, except Liberty University officials and as required by law or court order.
- E. Each person authorized by LUPD to carry a weapon under this policy shall, while on University property and in possession of a weapon, keep a copy of LUPD's written response authorizing them to carry their weapon, and shall produce such written authorization immediately upon demand by any law enforcement officer or other Liberty University official.
- F. LUPD shall post on its website this weapons policy in its entirety.

Section 6. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF WEAPONS POLICY

Any person found to violate a provision of Sections 2, 3, 4 or 5 of this policy will be subject to all appropriate penalties under University policy and applicable law. Liberty University students who violate the above provisions of this policy may be subject to 30 misconduct points (and also a \$500.00 fine, 30 hours Disciplinary Community Service, & possible Administrative Withdrawal), or to such other penalties as may be prescribed in the Liberty University Student Honor Code for such misconduct.

Section 7. STORAGE OF WEAPONS WITH LUPD

- A. Any Liberty University faculty, staff, or student who desires to store a weapon(s) with LUPD may, upon approval by LUPD, bring the weapon(s), unloaded, onto University property for storage with LUPD, using the procedure below.
- B. To be approved by LUPD for weapon storage, each person who desires to store a weapon with LUPD shall complete an application with LUPD indicating:
 - (1) the person's name, date of birth, current residential address (including dorm and room number, if applicable), phone, email and proof of current faculty, staff or student status;
 - (2) the make and model of any weapon, its serial number, if any, and the caliber of any firearm or air gun, and any other distinguishing information about the weapon that will enable LUPD to positively match the weapon to the applicant; and
 - (3) the amount and caliber of any ammunition or projectiles.
- C. For good cause, LUPD may not approve a storage application and shall inform the applicant of the decision and the reason(s) for it.
- D. Upon approval of a storage application, LUPD shall:
 - (1) authorize the applicant to bring the approved weapon(s) in a vehicle to the LUPD office, and

- (2) provide an escort to the person to bring the weapon(s) from the vehicle to the LUPD office.
- E. To protect the property rights of each person in his or her weapon(s), LUPD shall ensure that all weapons in its custody remain secure and unhandled, unless absolutely necessary for storage, retrieval, or storage rearrangement purposes.
 - F. Within the designated hours for weapon check-out, LUPD shall retrieve and produce to the owner the requested weapon(s) upon the owner's request, presentation of valid photo identification, and the owner's completion of a check-out form which details the check-out time of the weapon(s), where the weapon(s) will be used and for what lawful purpose, and when the weapon(s) will be checked-in. LUPD shall provide the person with a receipt showing all the above check-out information.
 - G. If LUPD has reason to believe return of the weapon(s) upon request poses a danger to the safety of the weapon owner and/or others, LUPD may delay or reasonably condition release of the weapon(s).
 - H. LUPD shall keep records of every such transaction, and shall adopt measures to ensure the timely check-in of all weapons.
 - I. Persons who are approved to store weapons with LUPD shall immediately upon entry upon University property, bring the weapon to the LUPD office in a vehicle. The weapons may not be brought from the vehicle to the LUPD office without an escort provided by LUPD.

Section 8. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF WEAPONS STORAGE PROCEDURES

Any person who violates a provision of Section 7 of this policy will be subject to all appropriate penalties under Liberty University policy and applicable law.