

**LIBERTY UNIVERSITY WEAPONS POLICY  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**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. "Less-lethal weapon" is defined as any weapon designed to temporarily incapacitate another person while minimizing the possibility of a fatal or permanent injury to that person. For the purpose of the weapons policy, less-lethal weapon will mean pepper spray and stun weapons.
- E. "University property" is defined as any building or land owned or leased by Liberty University or subject to its control.
- F. "Residence halls" is defined as the buildings on University property used to house students.
- G. "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 these weapons policy rules and regulations, 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. These rules and regulations do not prohibit or otherwise regulate the possession, storage or carrying of a less-lethal weapon, except that a less-lethal weapon shall never be displayed or openly carried except while necessary for its lawful use.
- B. Approved weapons must be serviced and/or cleaned off University property. Subject to the express permission and oversight of LUPD, approved weapons

may be serviced and/or cleaned at the Liberty University range or the Liberty University Police Department offices under the procedures in place for doing so.

- C. 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.
- D. In accordance with state and federal law, no weapons (including concealed weapons) are permitted at secured areas of airports and aircraft, and no weapons are permitted within the confines of a University facility being used by a third party renting or using a University facility where the tenant or authorized user elects to restrict weapons within its event and posts a weapons prohibition sign.

### **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. 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 and 3 E, no weapons may be stored

in residence halls. The approved weapon shall never be openly carried except while necessary for its lawful use.

- E. Students of Liberty University who reside in the residence halls and 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 including residence halls, and may store the approved weapon in a secured compartment in their vehicle while on University property or a secured safe provided by Liberty University and installed by Liberty University in their residence hall room. Except as permitted in Section 3 C and 3 E, no weapons may be stored in residence halls. Only students with University provided and installed safes in their room may carry an approved weapon into residence halls, and each resident assigned to live in such a room must consent to the installation of the safe in their room. Students are under no obligation to consent to the presence or storage of approved weapons in their assigned room and shall not be required to move or change rooms if they decline to consent to a roommate's request for safe installation. While in a residence hall, the approved weapon must be concealed on the student's person or secured in the University provided and installed safe, except when being actively transferred between those two locations or while necessary for its lawful use. While showering, wearing clothes that do not permit safe concealment of the approved weapon, and engaged in other activities where the approved weapon is not concealed on a student's person, the approved weapon shall be secured in the University provided and installed safe, in a secured compartment in the student's vehicle, stored with LUPD, or left off University property. Approved weapons shall never be serviced, cleaned, displayed or passed to another person inside the residence halls. Such approved weapon shall never be openly carried except while necessary for its lawful use. The permitted user shall not permit or facilitate access to the safe by any one, except LUPD officers.
  
- F. 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. Such 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 these weapons policy rules and regulations;

- (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 AND STORE WEAPON IN RESIDENCE HALL**

- A. To obtain permission to possess, store, or carry a concealed weapon pursuant to these weapons policy rules and regulations, 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. For students who reside in residence halls to possess a concealed weapon in a residence hall, the student must also request installation of a safe by submitting a complete safe installation form to LUPD, be approved and have the safe provided and installed by the University,
- B. To complete the concealed weapons application and/or safe installation form, 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 and/or form, 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;
- (4) authorize review by LUPD of applicant's criminal background records and records in the possession of the University relevant to the LUPD determination regarding approval for concealed carry;
- (5) if residing in a residence hall and seeking safe installation, authorize the annual charge for safe rental (including installation, programming and removal) to the applicant's student account;
- (6) if residing in a residence hall and seeking safe installation, provide the names of each of the students assigned to the person's residence hall room;
- (7) if residing in a residence hall and seeking safe installation, have each of the student's roommates appear personally at LUPD's office with University or government-issued identification to provide their signatures to indicate their consent to the presence and storage of approved weapons in their assigned room and to the installation of the safe in their room; and
- (8) 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 20 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, the response may or may not state the general 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 these weapons policy rules and regulations 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 Rules and Regulations in its entirety.

## **Section 6. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF WEAPONS POLICY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Any person found to violate a provision of Sections 2, 3, 4 or 5 of these weapons policy rules and regulations will be subject to all appropriate penalties under University policy and applicable law, including immediate revocation of LUPD authorization to carry a weapon under these rules and regulations. Liberty University students who violate the above provisions of these weapons policy rules and regulations 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 but may or may not state 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 these weapons policy rules and regulations will be subject to all appropriate penalties under Liberty University policy and applicable law.

#### **Section 9. AUTHORITY**

These Liberty University Weapons Policy Rules and Regulations are promulgated pursuant to the authority granted by of the Board of Trustees of Liberty University on April 22, 2016.