

## Weapons On Agency Premises

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**Policy No.: 900-20**

**Effective: July 1, 2014**

**Revised: NA**

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**Authority:** Citation: Safe Carry Protection Act -O.C.G.A. §§ 38-3-37, 16-11-125.1, 16-11-125.1(5), 16-11-126, 16-11-127(a)(2), 16-11-127(a)(3), 16-11-127(a) (4), 16-11-127(d)(3), 16-11-127 (e) (1), 16-11-127.1, 16-11-130, 16-11-135, 16-11-137(b), 16-11-173(b) (1)

**Reviewed:** NA

**Purpose:** To encourage safe practices when weapons are on site and to ensure compliance with the Safe Carry Protection Act.

**Policy 900-20:** Individual holders of a weapons carry license from the state of Georgia, or another state if not a resident of Georgia, shall be bound by the following when on Agency property or in areas where Agency staff are conducting an official business meeting unless federal restrictions apply.

### 1. Employees

GVRA employees are not permitted to bring weapons of any kind into Agency buildings/offices or meeting places. However, in accordance with the Safe Carry Protection Act, weapons possessed by a license holder are allowed when they are under the possessor's control in a motor vehicle in an Agency designated parking facility owned or leased by the agency and accessible to the public or are in a:

- > locked compartment of a motor vehicle
- > locked container in a motor vehicle
- > locked firearms rack on a motor vehicle.

### 2. Non-Secured Entry

When the Agency is open for business or conducting business meetings, a client, provider, contractor or visitor holding a weapons carry license is authorized to carry a weapon on Agency property and at meeting locations where the entrance(s) into such building is not restricted or screened by security personnel.

When staff are aware of an individual in possession of a weapon in an Agency office/building or at a meeting, they must inform their supervisor or management immediately.

If informed that an individual in possession of a weapon is present in an Agency office/building or meeting, the supervisor may not request that the individual remove the weapon from inside the office/building.

### 3. Secured/Screened Entry Officer

Agency buildings/offices and meetings places that have secured or screened entrance(s) shall not allow individuals carrying a weapon into the location. If at least one member of the security personnel is certified as a peace officer pursuant to Chapter 8 of Title 35, the license holder who enters or attempts to enter a government building carrying a weapon shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. If, however, a license holder immediately exits such building or immediately leaves such location upon notification of his or her failure to clear security due to the carrying of a weapon, they shall not be guilty of a misdemeanor. An individual who is not a license holder and who attempts to enter a government building carrying a weapon shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

A person carrying a weapon shall not be subject to detention for the sole purpose of investigating whether such person has a weapons carry license.

Individuals exempt per O.C.G.A 16-11-130, shall be allowed to enter Agency buildings/offices and meetings while in possession of a weapon. However, they shall be required to present their license or proof of exemption to carry a weapon. The list includes:

- > A peace officer as defined by Code Section 35-8-2; 16-1-3
- > A police officer of any county, municipal, state, state authority, or federal law enforcement agency in the state of Georgia including any college or university police officer;
- > Persons in the military service of the state or the United States; and
- > A private armed security officer hired to patrol private property on which the Agency conducts business.

**Scope:** All individuals entering an Agency building/office or meeting place shall be governed by this policy. Every employee's and volunteer's performance will be evaluated, in part, according to how he or she complies with this policy. All supervisors

are required to review this policy as a part of on-boarding new staff and annually thereafter with all staff.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Georgia Attorney General Office *Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Weapons law Amendments Taking Effect on July 1, 2014*  
[http://law.ga.gov/sites/law.ga.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/FAQ%20on%20New%20Gun%20Laws.pdf](http://law.ga.gov/sites/law.ga.gov/files/related_files/site_page/FAQ%20on%20New%20Gun%20Laws.pdf)

**Glossary Reference(s):**

**Agency building:**(A) The building in which an agency entity is housed;  
(B) The building where an agency entity meets in its official capacity; provided, however, that if such building is not a publicly owned building, such building shall be considered an agency building for the purposes of this policy section only during the time such agency entity is meeting at such building; or (C) The portion of any building that is not a publicly owned building that is occupied by an agency entity.

**Parking facility:** real property owned or leased by a government entity that has been designated by such government entity for the parking of motor vehicles at a government building.

**Weapon:** Handgun or knife.

**Revision Log:** NA