

## OLA 2018 - Weapons in Public Libraries - Multnomah County Library

### Staff Guidelines

Generally, firearms are not permitted in library buildings or property. *Exceptions include:*

1. Firearms carried by on-duty law enforcement personnel.
2. Handguns carried by patrons in accordance with a valid Oregon concealed handgun license.

This license permits a patron to carry a handgun in an open (e.g. holstered visibly on a belt) or concealed (e.g. holstered invisibly under a jacket) manner.

### What to do if you observe someone with a firearm

If someone is observed carrying a weapon or any other dangerous item in a disruptive or threatening manner, library personnel should be prepared to respond in accordance with **active threat training** and **major security incident response procedures**. Excluding active threat situations and the exceptions outlined above, if library personnel observe someone carrying a firearm on library premises, they should strive to take the following steps as quickly and as safely as possible:

1. Call 911, report the observation, and request that law enforcement personnel contact the patron to determine whether the firearm is carried in accordance with a valid Oregon concealed handgun license.
2. Notify other library employees working at the location.
3. Notify one of the emergency contacts identified in the **major security incident response procedures**.
4. Permit law enforcement personnel to contact the patron and determine whether the patron may lawfully carry the firearm.
5. If law enforcement determines that the patron is carrying the firearm unlawfully, then the patron should be excluded for one year for violating rule 1.
  - PICs and security personnel should ask responding law enforcement personnel to notify the patron on the library's behalf.

6. If law enforcement determines that the patron is carrying the firearm lawfully and in accordance with a valid Oregon concealed handgun license, then, in the presence of law enforcement personnel, PICs should ask the patron to keep the handgun concealed at all times while on library premises (to minimize disruption of library operations).
7. If the patron complies with the reasonable request to keep the handgun concealed, then the patron may remain on library premises.
8. If the patron does not comply with the reasonable request to keep the handgun concealed, then the patron should be excluded for violating rules 6 and 8.
  - PICs and security personnel should exclude the patron in the presence of law enforcement personnel (or ask responding law enforcement to exclude the patron on the library's behalf).

## **Other weapons**

Almost anything can be used as a weapon; however, certain items might be more dangerous and disruptive to library operations, and therefore considered by the library to be “unauthorized weapons” when carried by patrons. PICs and security personnel must use their best judgment to determine whether an item should be considered an “unauthorized weapon.”

Generally, unauthorized weapons include (but are not limited to):

- ⑩ Any weapon that is used or possessed unlawfully (also a violation of rule 1).
- ⑩ Any unsheathed blade.
- ⑩ Any fixed-blade or folding knife with a blade 4 inches or longer (swords, etc.)
- ⑩ Any bow, crossbow, arrow, bolt, slingshot, or similar projectile item.
- ⑩ Any tool or piece of equipment that is readily capable of causing serious physical injury and that might reasonably be regarded as a weapon (e.g. an axe).

If the PIC or security officer determines that a patron is carrying an unauthorized weapon, then the PIC or security officer should provide a reasonable direction to remove the item from library premises. PICs and security personnel should request law enforcement assistance if they believe the assistance will be necessary to resolve the situation safely. It is not lawful for patrons to carry certain items concealed upon their person (including any knife having a blade that projects or swings into position by force of a spring or by centrifugal force, any dirk, dagger, ice pick, slungshot, metal knuckles, or any

similar instrument by the use of which injury could be inflicted upon the person or property of any other person). Library personnel should not advise patrons to conceal such items. Concealing such an item upon one's person is a violation of rule 1. Generally, any violation of rule 27 that is also a violation of rule 1, involves an accompanying violation of rule 2, or involves an accompanying violation of rule 6 that is threatening in nature, will result in a minimum exclusion length of one year.