

POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, PISTOLS, AND WEAPONS



INFORMATION

BOARD POLICY CODE	J.23
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Itawamba Community College prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or other weapons on college-controlled property or at college-sponsored events, except by duly authorized law enforcement officers and specifically designated Authorized Persons. The presence of such weapons by unauthorized individuals poses an unreasonable and unacceptable risk of harm to students, employees, visitors and guests.

Accordingly, it is strictly prohibited that any person – other than duly authorized law enforcement officers or specifically designated Authorized Persons – be in possession of firearms or other weapons on college-controlled property or at college events. Also, note that Miss. Code Ann. 97-37-17 has a special exception.

Specifically:

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. 97-37-17, it shall not constitute a violation of this section for an individual to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, a gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm on educational property, if all the following conditions are met:

1. **The individual is not a student** enrolled at or attending any educational institution located on the property;
2. **The firearm is kept inside a motor vehicle**, whether parked or in transit on the premises; and
3. **The firearm is not brandished, exhibited, or displayed** in a careless, angry, or threatening manner while on the property.

Departmental Use

Certain departments including MHP C.O.R.E. program and Criminal Justice Department instructors may be required to possess firearms and/or other weapons to conduct research, teaching or related duties. In such cases, multiple employees may need to obtain authorization through the established process to handle, purchase, store and/or transport these weapons.

Any department seeking this authorization must develop a written protocol outlining the intended use, handling and security measures for the weapons. This protocol must be submitted to the Campus Chief of Police for review and approval. Once approved, the department is required to follow the protocol strictly and consistently.

Definitions

Authorized Persons – those individuals, other than employees and students, who have in their possession a valid, unexpired state firearms permit with the “Instructor Certified” (IC) sticker on the back or the equivalent permit issued by a state with a reciprocity agreement with Mississippi.

College-Controlled Property – This shall include (1) all campuses/locations including the Belden Center (2) all College buildings, offices and grounds, regardless of whether the College owns, leases or otherwise controls the space and (3) College-owned vehicles.

Enforcement

Any visitor or guest who violates this policy will be required to immediately remove the weapon from campus/center and may be subject to removal from the premises, denial of future access, and referral to law enforcement for potential criminal charges.

In addition to the above, a student violating this policy may be suspended immediately pending a disciplinary hearing and subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. An employee violating this policy may be suspended immediately pending a review by Human Resources and subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Cross Ref: G. 41