**GALVESTON COLLEGE CAMPUS CARRY REGULATIONS**

**CARRY OF CONCEALED HANDGUNS**

Senate Bill 11 (SB 11) of the 84th Texas Legislature permits individuals holding concealed handgun licenses to carry their weapons onto the campus and into the general buildings of the publicly governed institutions of higher education in Texas. The fundamental goals of this policy are to ensure compliance with the spirit and letter of SB 11 in a manner consistent with other relevant laws, and to ensure the continuation of the current calm, constructive and positive social and intellectual environment that characterizes the Galveston College District.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The rules, regulations and provisions pertaining to the carry of concealed handguns by license holders on the campus of Galveston College, as well as any properties owned, leased, or controlled by Galveston College, including any campuses established in the future.

1. In accordance with Government Code Section 411.0231 and Texas Penal Code 46.035, Galveston College recognizes the right of individuals licensed to carry concealed handguns to do so on campus property, and in buildings whether owned or leased by Galveston College, unless otherwise prohibited by Galveston College policy.

2. Texas Law mandates that individuals who are 21 years of age or older, and who currently possess a handgun license from the State of Texas or an approved reciprocating state, may legally carry a concealed handgun on or about their person.

3. This policy applies to all Faculty, Staff, Students and Visitors of the College, except for Galveston College police officers, and all subjects described within this document who may be exempt. It is the responsibility of Galveston College police to enforce this policy.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

A License to Carry (LTC) holder may carry a concealed handgun on or about their person while on college property, or in any buildings or properties owned, leased, rented, or otherwise controlled by Galveston College, except in areas identified as Gun Free Zones (GFZ). Failure to comply with any of the following procedures may result in either disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, or both.

1. *Concealment* - Handguns must be carried in a manner that would prevent accidental discharges. It is the responsibility of the LTC holder to conceal the handgun. (Any person who does not have a valid LTC is prohibited from carrying a handgun on any portion of the college, its properties, whether concealed or not with the exception of leaving it in their vehicle). When not carried on or about their person, a handgun must be secured in a vehicle or, if an employee, in a manner specified below in section #2 Storage.

2. *Storage* - Employees of the college who are LTC holders are permitted to store a handgun in their office as long as the handgun is secured in a gun safe approved by the Galveston College Police/Security Department.

3. *Gun Free Zones (GFZ)* - Employees may submit a request to the President to have their office designated a GFZ, but these requests will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis. Offices located in any area determined to be vital infrastructure to the operation of the college community are considered GFZ’s.

4. *Safety and Security* – The licensed carrier is responsible for maintaining complete practical control of the handgun at all times, so that it is either on the licensee’s person or is immediately accessible from a purse or other analogous personal accessory that is continually under the direct control of the licensee. The only alternative to these conditions is that a gun be stored appropriately, as required in section #2 Storage.

**LEGAL OBLIGATION**

The following circumstances are prohibited or illegal:

1. The possession of a weapon on campus while intoxicated.

2. Off-campus travel by college led/sponsored individuals or groups traveling to areas that may exclude handguns to fulfill legal or contractual obligations or to allow a group/individual to travel to an area or place where a gun would be restricted, such as a prison, hospital, polling place, child care facility, etc.

3. Open Carry of a handgun on the Galveston College campus is prohibited. Authorized members of the Galveston College Police, other law enforcement officers, and other persons designated appropriate by law enforcement authorities are exempt.

4. Recklessly revealing a handgun on campus is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action and criminal prosecution.

5. With the exception of authorized Galveston College Police personnel, no College employee should inquire whether or not a person is carrying a concealed weapon or whether the person possesses an LTC.

6. Any person unless they have been threatened, who openly states that they possess a handgun and/or a license to carry may be charged with terroristic threat, assault by threat, or other charges deemed appropriate by law enforcement.

7. Any person who accidently discharges a weapon on campus is subject to disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, or both. In situations where a weapon is intentionally discharged, the case will be investigated and judged on its merits. If the discharge of a weapon is found not to be justified then the person discharging the weapon is subject to disciplinary action, criminal prosecution, or both.

8. Any weapons prohibited prior to S.B. 11 under Sections 46.00 through 46.05 of the Texas Penal Code are still prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, long guns, shotguns, knives with a blade longer than 5.5”, brass knuckles, clubs, explosives, etc.

**GUN FREE ZONES**

There are areas of the Galveston College Campus, and properties owned, leased or rented by Galveston College, which were identified as locations deemed Gun Free Zones (GFZ), therefore prohibiting Concealed Carrying of a handgun at these locations. There are two types of GFZ’s. One is permanent, and the second is temporary. The permanent GFZ is one that meets the requirements of a GFZ daily. A temporary GFZ is a building, room, or area used for a short period, which meets the requirements of a GFZ on a short-term basis. The requirements are dictated by law and policy.

If an individual or group requests an area be declared a permanent GFZ, a written request must be completed and submitted to the Head of Campus Security and Vice President of Administration for review. The request will be reviewed by the Head of Campus Security and Vice President of Administration before forwarding to the College President for consideration. If approved, the request will be forwarded to the Boards of Regents for final approval.

 **1. Federal and State Deemed Gun Free Zones:**

a. Presence of School Children – Due to the nature of the College, school children can and will appear at unscheduled times in almost any location, whether in groups of escorted tours, as subjects of study or treatment or as visitors, alone or with families. There is no practical way to warn about or to demark areas of campus where such occurrences will or will not happen. Licensed carriers should avoid areas in which school children are present as prescribed by existing law.

b. Sporting Events. The carrying of concealed weapons is prohibited at intermural, intramural, and club sporting events held on the College’s premises, whether held under the sponsorship of the Galveston College District or of some external organization, and whether the event is ticketed or not. This prohibition is in accord with the Texas Penal Code §46.035(b)(2).

c. Patient Care Facilities. Various rooms and areas of the College District’s buildings functioning as facilities for consulting with and treating patients. Consistent with Texas Penal Code §46.035(b)(4), these areas will be marked clearly to designate their functions, and individuals carrying concealed weapons will be excluded from them.

d. Hearing Facilities. Various rooms and areas of the College District buildings that functions from time to time as facilities for disciplinary hearings or for mediation sessions. When so used, these areas will be marked clearly to designate their functions, and it is incumbent upon the individuals carrying concealed weapons not to enter these areas.

**2. College District Deemed Gun Free Zones:**

a. Campus laboratory areas where dangerous materials and equipment are present.

b. College owned vehicles used to transport students, including those rented or leased. (Excludes Campus Police Vehicles).

c. Areas containing critical College infrastructure, such as, but not limited to:

• College IT Department

• Human Resources

• Central Plant (located in the Northern Building)

• Any area where contractual or licensing obligations require the exclusion of firearms.

• Refer to the Student Handbook for a complete list of the College Districts Gun Free Zones (GFZ).

**3. Temporary Gun Free Zones:**

a. Ares used for discussions of grievance or disciplinary hearings.

b. Any area where minor children may be present on a short-term basis.

c. Open Board meetings conducted by a quorum of the College Board of Regents.

**4. Signage for Gun Free Zones:**

a. All areas deemed GFZ’s must have written notice placed at the entrance and must be clearly visible giving notice that the premise is a designated GFZ. Written notice must be given as to where LTC licensees may not carry. Notice given on a card, document or sign must contain the language exactly as specified in Section 30.06 of the Texas Penal Code. It reads as follows: Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), and a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun.

b. If signage is posted to declare an area or room a GFZ, the sign must meet the minimum requirements:

• Must include the above listed language in both English and Spanish.

• Constructed in contrasting colors with 1” block lettering.

• Be displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public.

**AMENDMENT AND PROVISIONS**

As provided by law, the President may, at his/her discretion, amend the provisions of this policy as necessary for campus safety, which shall take effect as determined by the President unless subsequently amended by the Board of Regents. Be displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public.

**STORAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Any resident of campus housing, who is a handgun license holder and wants to store a handgun in his/her room, must provide and properly install their own steel safe in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

1. The safe shall be designed and manufactured for the storage of a handgun.

2. No safe may be permanently affixed to the housing facility.

3. The College will not provide a primary storage device.

4. Residents are responsible for the actions of their guests, including family and friends.

● Minimum Requirements:

○ Electronic lock, min. of 2 (two) 3/4 inch locking bolts.

○ Walls composed of at least 10 Gauge steel or thicker

● Examples:

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| Barska AX11618 Digital Keypad Safe | Barska AX11902 Fireproof Digital Keypad Safe |
| Ivation™ Biometric Fingerprint Home Safe | Mesa Safe Company Model MH101 |
| Mesa Safe Mesa MHRC916E-BLK | Mesa Safe Company Model MHRC916E |
| Polet Large Hotel Safe | Sentry®Safe X105 Security Safe |
| Stack-On Personal Safe with Electronic Lock | Stack-On Extra Wide Strong Box Safe with Electronic Lock |
| Viking Security Safe VS-25BL Biometric Safe Fingerprint Safe |

Definitions:

**Handgun** – any firearm that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one hand.

**Concealed Handgun** – the presence of a handgun is not openly discernible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.

 1. Open carry of a handgun is NOT permitted by a license holder on Galveston College owned or leased locations (including ALL buildings, driveways, streets, sidewalks or walkways, and parking areas of the institution) regardless of whether the handgun is holstered. Only licensed peace officers are authorized by law to open carry firearms on campus.
2. A license holder, under Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code, may carry a concealed handgun while on Galveston College owned or leased locations unless prohibited by state or federal law or by the exceptions described by the regulations.
3. A license holder will not be subject to prejudice for lawfully expressing the right to carry.
4. Galveston College expects license holders to store lawfully the handgun when going to a place on campus where concealed carry is prohibited. The college will not provide general storage.
5. A license holder may be asked to show proof of license to a college police officer but no other college employee may ask to see the license.
6. A license holder may transport and store a concealed handgun in a locked, privately owned vehicle while on Galveston College owned or leased locations.
7. A license holder who carries a concealed handgun on his or her person must secure the handgun in a holster that covers the trigger guard.
8. A license holder may not carry a handgun if he or she is intoxicated.
9. A license holder may not carry a handgun on the premises where a high school, collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic event is taking place, unless the license holder is a participant in the event and a handgun is used in the event.
10. A license holder may not carry a handgun into a polling location on campus.
11. The concealed carry of a handgun into formal disciplinary or appeals hearings is prohibited.
12. License holders who reside in or visit campus housing may carry a concealed handgun. Handguns must be either concealed on the license holder’s person, stored in a locked vehicle, or stored in a locked safe inside the resident’s room.
13. An employee of the college who is a license holder may store a handgun in a locked drawer in his or her assigned office.
14. These regulations will be enforced through the involvement of police in criminal infractions. Penalties may include a Class C citation and an offense report and/or arrest.
15. These regulations will be distributed widely to faculty, staff, and students through the college’s website, The Student Handbook, and faculty/staff handbooks.
16. Galveston College will comply with the placement of required signage as described by Texas Government Code section 30.06.
17. An ad hoc committee appointed by the president may review these regulations based on requests filed by college departments.
18. The Galveston College president may amend these rules as necessary for campus safety.