

Weapons Policy

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SECTION I. PURPOSE

The University of St. Thomas is committed to providing a safe and secure learning, working and living environment. This policy prohibits the possession and use of weapons on campus and in connection with St. Thomas employment.

SECTION II. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all St. Thomas students, employees (faculty, staff and student workers), contractors, volunteers, visitors and licensees, who are referred to in this policy as ***Covered Persons***.

SECTION III. PROHIBITED WEAPONS AND EXCEPTIONS

A. Definitions

Weapon means any instrument (i) that is designed to inflict harm to living beings or damage to property, or (ii) the use of which requires a license, permit or otherwise is regulated for the purpose of avoiding harm to living beings or damage to property, or (iii) that is used with the intent to threaten or inflict harm to living beings or damage to property or (iv) that is a realistic replica of a weapon that can cause or be perceived to cause bodily harm or property damage. Some examples of weapons include firearms (including but not limited to pistols, guns, rifles, air guns and air rifles) explosives (including but not limited to fireworks), knives other than those used for cooking, dining and other utility purposes and mace/pepper spray (except when stored in a container of a size and strength intended for personal self-defense (typically no larger than 2.5oz), used only in lawful self-defense, and safely stored and secured when not in use).

St. Thomas property means all real property, buildings, vehicles and facilities under the primary control of St. Thomas through ownership, lease, or other means. For example, St. Thomas property includes, but is not limited to, St. Thomas residence halls and other St. Thomas owned housing for students, St. Thomas academic, administrative and athletic buildings and facilities, outdoor areas on campus, and St. Thomas vehicles. St. Thomas property also includes all public or private locations, stadiums and halls that the University has leased or licensed for University events and activities, including, but not limited to intercollegiate and intramural sporting events.

B. Weapons Prohibited

Subject to the limited exceptions set forth in this policy, St. Thomas prohibits the possession and use of all weapons on and in St. Thomas property. This means that while on or in St. Thomas property, Covered Persons are prohibited from using and carrying, transporting, storing or otherwise having weapons on their person or in their clothing, a purse, backpack, locker, vehicle, office, residence hall room, or elsewhere. St. Thomas faculty, staff and student workers also are prohibited from using and carrying weapons any time they are acting in the course and scope of employment (such as business travel and during off-campus meetings).

Covered Persons also are prohibited from knowingly accompanying another Covered Person who is carrying a weapon in violation of this policy.

C. Exceptions

The following exceptions apply to this policy:

- **Department of Public Safety.** St. Thomas Public Safety Department employees and external law enforcement officers or other government personnel who are required, by their position of employment, to carry a weapon while on or in St. Thomas property are excepted from this policy, provided that their possession and (if applicable) use of a weapon has been properly authorized by their employer and complies with all laws, policies and procedures applicable to such possession and use.
- **ROTC.** This policy does not prohibit ROTC cadre and cadets from carrying replica weapons when required for ROTC exercises and functions.
- **Permit to Carry.** Consistent with Minnesota law, Covered Persons who have a valid permit to carry a firearm and who comply with all legal requirements associated with such permit may keep the firearm in a trunk or glove compartment of their locked motor vehicle, including when the vehicle is parked on St. Thomas property. Vehicles parked on St. Thomas property are subject to all St. Thomas parking policies, and individuals park at their own risk. St. Thomas assumes no responsibility for protection of any vehicle or its contents or any liability arising from the use of any weapon stored in a Covered Person's vehicle.

SECTION IV. ENFORCEMENT

St. Thomas reserves the right to inspect its property as well as a Covered Person's personal property while located on St. Thomas premises.

If you are aware that any Covered Person possesses a weapon in violation of this policy, you are expected to immediately report the violation to Public Safety at 651-962-5555, or for the university's Rome campus, to the Bernardi Campus Director at (651) 962-6116.

SECTION V. SANCTIONS

Violation of this policy may result in discipline or other sanctions, up to and including immediate termination of employment, expulsion from the university, trespass from campus.