



POLICY REGARDING WEAPONS ON DIOCESAN PROPERTY

POLICY

The following is Diocesan Policy for:

Catholic Charities of Central Florida,
including Pathways to Care & Pathways to New Hope
Bishop Grady Villas/Magnify
San Pedro Spiritual Development Center
Chancery Offices
All Diocesan Parishes and Schools

The Diocese of Orlando, including its parishes, schools and ministries (hereafter referred to as “the Diocese”) is committed to providing a safe environment for all employees, volunteers, parishioners, students, residents and visitors. In accordance with that commitment, the Diocese, as a religious institution and property owner, exercises its religious freedom rights and adopts a strict “No Weapons” policy on all properties it owns, rents, leases or lawfully uses. This policy is also exercised under the property rights afforded to the Diocese of Orlando by Florida Statute § 790.06(13) and is further supported by the Florida Attorney General’s position that “private property owners maintain the long-standing legal prerogative to compel individuals carrying firearms to leave the premises.” The policy also bans firearms on any diocesan school property in accordance with Florida Statute § 790.115.

Scope of the Policy

All persons, except for authorized law enforcement personnel and Diocesan approved third party vendors are prohibited from carrying or possessing any firearm, concealed weapon, or other dangerous ordnance on Diocesan property. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to:

- All open and concealed carry of firearms, even by individuals with a concealed weapon license.
- Any weapon that is not an authorized firearm, such as knives, explosives or other dangerous ordnance.
- The carrying of a weapon in a vehicle parked on diocesan property.

Employees

- Non-school employees are permitted to store firearms securely in their locked vehicles as long as they are not on school property.

Enforcement and Notice(s)

The Diocese authorizes its pastors, principals, staff and designated security personnel to enforce this policy which may be communicated as follows:

- Posted signage: Visible signage clearly stating the “No Weapons” policy will be posted at all entrances to Diocesan schools.
- Website notification: published on the official Diocese of Orlando website.
- Verbal communication: Personnel may communicate this policy to visitors as needed.

Consequences of Violation

A person who willfully violates this policy may face one or more of the following consequences:

- Immediate removal: The person will be instructed to leave the property immediately.
- Criminal charges: refusal to leave after being warned may result in trespassing charges, including armed trespassing.
- Permanent Ban: The Diocese reserves the right to ban any person who violates this policy.

Initiated: September 2025

