

POLICY AGAINST POSSESSION OF WEAPONS...4950

Oregon Conference Policy Book

Statement of Policy

In order to promote a safe environment in which church members and visitors are protected from harm, Oregon Conference considers it a safety hazard to allow weapons to be introduced on to the church premises. Therefore, no one possessing weapons will be allowed inside the church or any other property owned and operated by the Oregon Conference.

Scope

This policy applies to all persons, *including those with a valid concealed firearms permit*. Exceptions to this policy are local, state or federal law enforcement officers in the performance of duty.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions are taken from the City Code of Portland:

Weapon (14.32.100)

“ It is unlawful for any person, not authorized by law, to carry a "dangerous or deadly weapon" in a concealed manner. “ Dangerous or deadly weapon includes a firearm, metal knuckles, straight razor, weapon of the type commonly known as nunchaku, black jack, sap, or sap glove, and any type of knife other than an ordinary pocketknife with a blade not longer than three and one-half inches. When carried with intent to use the same unlawfully against another, "dangerous or deadly weapon" also includes any instrument or device capable of inflicting injury to the person or property of another.

Firearm (14.32.010CA)

“ *Firearm means a pistol, revolver, gun rifle, or other ordinance, including a miniature weapon, which projects a missile or shot by force of gun powder or any other explosive, by spring or by compressed air.*

Procedure

“Anyone becoming aware of an individual in possession of a weapon on the church premises will immediately notify the head deacon, elder or available person in authority. “ If a person is already inside the church and is found to have a weapon and is unwilling to surrender it or take it off the premises, the police shall be called. Do not attempt to confront the person. Explain the specific circumstance to the police such as the type of weapon, whether the person is causing a problem or disturbance, whether the person is threatening to cause a problem, or is making unusual or unreasonable demands of anyone. Remove persons from the vicinity and advise them of the potential for harm. “ Because verbal forms of violence often signal more serious violence to come, report any threat of violence to a person in authority. If the person refuses to leave the premises, report the incident to the police.

Please NOTE: Adventist Risk Management Insurance

Our General Liability Insurance through Adventist Risk Management excludes coverage for “‘body injury’, ‘property injury’, ‘personal injury’, or ‘advertising injury’ arising out of the use of or the carrying of firearms by an insured”. Therefore, volunteers or employees are not allowed to carry firearms/weapons while on church or school premises or church or school sponsored activities.