



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

WEAPON POLICY

The Department of Human Resources does not permit weapons in any of its Maryland government buildings. (COMAR04.05.01.03 B)

Except for official purposes and by authorized personnel, an individual on the property may not carry open or concealed firearms, explosives, incendiary devices, or dangerous or deadly weapons.

Exceptions to this policy will be for the following circumstances:

- A police officer in uniform, action in his/her official capacity, and/or who is on official duty and representing his/her agency. Firearms may be carried as directed by the agency policy of the police officer for wearing and carrying firearms while in uniform.
- A police officer not in uniform, who is acting in his/her official capacity as a representative of his/her agency, will display his/her badge of authority and conform to his/her agency's policy on wearing and carrying firearms.

1. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Weapon:** For the purpose of this policy a "weapon" is defined as any firearm, knife, explosive, or other object (sharp objects, sporting goods, tools, martial arts, and self defense items) even if manufactured for a nonviolent purpose, that has a potentially violent use, or any "look-a-like" object that resembles an object that has a potentially violent use.
- b. **Deadly Weapon:** For the purpose of this policy, a "deadly weapon" is defined as any firearm, loaded or unloaded, or any weapon capable of causing death or great bodily harm. This includes, but is not restricted to: knives, [to include ANY lock blade knife or ANY knife with a total length of over three inches including handle length], daggers, brass knuckles, switchblade knives, butterfly knives, bowie knives, stilettos, butcher knives, pocket knives, or any weapon with which a dangerous cut can be given or dangerous thrusts can be inflicted. Examples include sword canes and any kind of sharp pointed canes, slingshots, bludgeons, or any other weapon which dangerous wounds can be inflicted (nunchucks, pellet guns, BB guns, paintball guns, soft pellet guns, live ammunition or ordnance, or chemicals that when mixed together become explosive.

- c. Firearm: For the purpose of this policy, a “firearm” is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, capable of expelling a projectile by the action of an explosive. This includes the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. (i.e.: “MRE bomb”, artillery simulator or exploding fireworks).

2. SCREENING POLICY

Individuals entering buildings will be requested to place any metal objects or objects that may activate the metal detector alarm into a basket.

An item that may activate the metal detector includes but is not limited to: keys, key rings, cell phone, belt buckles, watches, jewelry, and coins.

Individuals entering a DHR building equipped with a walk-through metal detector will be requested to walk the device.

Individuals who set off the detector’s alarm will be subject to a secondary, usually consisting of a metal detecting hand wand.

Individuals in wheel chairs and those with casts or prosthetic devices will be screened via hand wand or hand held metal detector.

Any items classified as weapons in this policy are prohibited from being brought to any facility occupied, leased or owned by the Department of Human Resources, Local Department of Social Services, and Local Child Support Enforcement Agencies.

If these items are brought to any of the buildings they will be confiscated and NOT returned to the holder or owner.