

Weapons on Institutional Property

Office of the
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The unauthorized presence of a firearm or other dangerous weapon inside an employee's vehicle is both a violation of the Department's rules and Florida Statutes. Rule 33-602.203(3), Florida Administrative Code, entitled, "Control of Contraband" provides in part:

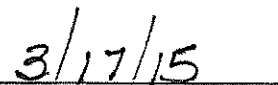
- 3) No person, whether he be an inmate or other person, unless authorized by the warden, assistant warden, chief of security or the shift supervisor, shall introduce into or upon the grounds of an institution any of the following articles which are hereby declared to be contraband:
- c) Any firearm, ammunition, explosive substance, or any instrumentality customarily used or designed to be used as a dangerous weapon, as defined in Section 790.001, F.S., with the following exceptions:
- (1) Staff who meet the conditions below are permitted to carry (1) handgun to and from work in their personal vehicle under the specific requirements outlined below:
- (a) All current correctional class employees covered by the Security Services Bargaining Unit.
 - (b) Any employee with a current/valid concealed weapons license issued by the State of Florida.
 - (c) Any employee with correctional officer, law enforcement officer, or correctional probation officer certification not covered by the Security Services Bargaining Unit.
- (2) Specific requirements:
- (a) Employees with a valid/current concealed weapons license issued by the State of Florida must provide it to the Warden or Office of Inspector General's Staff upon request.
 - (b) Employees with correctional officer, law enforcement officer, or correctional probation officer certification not covered by the Security Services Bargaining Unit, must have proof of certification and be prepared to show it to the Warden or Office of Inspector General's staff upon request and a copy of the proof of certification should remain with the handgun.
 - (c) Only handguns are permitted under this rule, long arms, rifles, shotguns, bow and arrows, or any other type of weapon is not permitted.
 - (d) The handgun must be stored in a lock-box, specifically designed to securely lock and hold a handgun.
 - (e) Empty ammo boxes, metal coin boxes, or securing the handgun in the glove compartment or console is not permissible.
 - (f) Only one (1) handgun/lock-box per vehicle is permitted.
 - (g) All doors and windows must lock if the lock-box is kept in the passenger compartment of the vehicle.
 - (h) If a person can access the passenger compartment of the vehicle from the trunk, the trunk must be locked.
 - (i) Lock-boxes containing handguns will not be placed in toolboxes or other similar storage devices affixed to or located in the truck bed.
 - (j) If the vehicle is a convertible, the lock-box must be stored in the trunk.
 - (k) If the vehicle is a Jeep (or similar soft top, no top, and/or no trunk type of vehicle), then a handgun cannot be carried onto state property.
 - (l) Extra ammunition is not permitted -- only the amount needed to fill the handgun to capacity is permitted.
 - (m) Ammunition must be stored in the lock-box with the handgun.
 - (n) Handguns will not be removed from a vehicle while on state property except by those members of institutional pistol teams who use their own personal handguns. Institutional pistol teams are composed of employees, authorized by wardens, who compete in pistol matches representing their home institution.
 - (i) Institutional pistol teams will utilize personal handguns as authorized in this section only for authorized activities.
 - (ii) Handguns and ammunition will only be removed from lock-boxes at the firing range.

In addition, §944.47, Florida Statutes provides that except through regular channels as authorized by the officer in charge of the correctional institution, the introduction into or upon the grounds of any state correctional institution, any firearm or weapon of any kind or any explosive substance, is a second-degree felony.

Those residing on institution property shall comply with rule 33-602.806(4), Florida Administrative Code, entitled, "Responsibilities of Staff Housing Occupants" which provides specific limitations. Staff residing on institutional property shall remove their weapons from their vehicles and secure them safely in their homes. For those whose homes are occupied or visited by persons under the age of 16, firearms shall be secured in accordance with §790.174, Florida Statutes.

Any employee found violating these provisions will be severely disciplined.


Julie Jones, Secretary


Date