

# 1 Firearms and Other Weapons

2 Effective: October 25, 2005

3 Updated/Revised: July 30, 2008

4 Contact: [Senior Vice President for Business and Finance](#)

## 5 Introduction

6 In 2005, the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, adopted changes to the Uniform Rules of Personal Conduct that broadened  
7 the coverage. These rules allow the universities to authorize the use of firearms and weapons. This policy clarifies when the  
8 use of firearms and other weapons may be authorized on the campus and in the course of university-related activities.

## 9 Policy Statement

10 The policy was created for purposes of safety and members of the university community should expect that the rules will be  
11 enforced with this goal in mind. Activities involving firearms and weapons that are authorized will not be subject to  
12 disciplinary action under the Regents Uniform Rules of Personal Conduct as long as the use does not violate other  
13 provisions of our policies, such as endangerment or injury.

## 14 Definition

15 Weapons include any pistol, revolver, shotgun, machine gun, rifle or other firearm, BB or pellet gun, Taser or stun gun,  
16 bomb, grenade, mine or other explosive or incendiary device, ammunition, archery equipment, dagger, stiletto, switchblade  
17 knife, or knife having a blade exceeding five inches in length. Residents of university housing may possess knives having a  
18 blade exceeding five inches for cooking purposes (681 IAC §13.14(5)).

## 19 Authorized Uses

20 The possession or use of weapons is prohibited on campus and in the course of university-related activities unless  
21 authorized through the Firearms and Other Weapons Application process (see Office of Risk Management in Resources  
22 section below). However, there may be appropriate uses of firearms and weapons in connection with university activities  
23 both on and off campus. The Director of ISU Police and the Senior Vice President for Business and Finance have final  
24 approval concerning any use of firearms or other weapons.

## 25 Authorized ISU Departments

26 The following are identified departments where the use of firearms and other weapons has been authorized:

- 27 • **Military Science:** Students and employees are permitted to use and possess weapons as authorized by the military  
28 science programs for purposes of those programs.
- 29 • **Law enforcement:** University law enforcement personnel are authorized to possess and use weapons as permitted by  
30 policy or by the Senior Vice President for Business and Finance in the course of employment. Non-university law  
31 enforcement personnel are permitted to possess and use weapons in the course of their duties.

## 32 Other Uses of Firearms or Weapons

33 The following are identified areas where the authorized use of firearms and other weapons may be appropriate and require  
34 approval through the Firearms and Other Weapons Application process (see Office of Risk Management in Resources  
35 section below):

- 36 • **University organization:** The director of Recreation Services or the director of Risk Management may authorize a  
37 university-recognized organization, whose purpose includes the teaching of safe and proper technique in handling  
38 firearms or other weapons, to discharge such weapons off the campus at club events. The directors of Recreation  
39 Services and director of Risk Management may also authorize activities other than discharging weapons such as  
40 reloading of ammunition both on and off the campus
- 41 • **Sporting event:** Firearms designed for the use of starting sporting events are permitted for use at athletic events.
- 42 • **Theatrical event:** Firearms and other weapons designed for safe use for theatrical events are permitted for use in  
43 dramatic presentations and rehearsals under the supervision of faculty or staff responsible for such events.
- 44 • **Farm:** The director of Research and Demonstration Farms may permit the use of firearms or other weapons on outlying  
45 farms.
- 46 • **Research:** Possession and use of firearms or other weapons are permitted when they are part of an approved research  
47 project. If the research requires human subjects or animal use review, the use is not approved until the Human Subjects  
48 or Animal Use Committee has also reviewed the proposed use and has given permission to proceed.

49 • **Extension and 4-H:** Possession and use of firearms or other weapons are permitted when they are part of an approved  
50 Extension and 4-H program.

51 • **Religious or cultural event:** Firearms or other weapons may be used for ceremonies, and functions of religious,  
52 cultural, social and honorary groups and events.

53 The unauthorized transportation, use, or storage of any firearms, weapons and/or explosives is prohibited. In extenuating  
54 circumstances, a request for authorization for transporting firearms, weapons and/or explosives must be submitted in writing  
55 and approved by the Office of Risk Management or Department of Public Safety. In addition, the Office of Risk Management  
56 must review and authorize any student organization activity that involves weapon or gun use.

## 57 **Resources**

### 58 **Links**

- 59 • [Department of Public Safety](#)
- 60 • [Fireworks, Pyrotechnics, and Flame Effects Policy](#)
- 61 • [Office of Risk Management](#)
- 62 • [Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 13](#)