Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms

I. Definitions:

a. **Deadly Weapon** means "any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles." Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-3(6).

b. **Firearm** means "any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged." Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-3(19).

c. **Peace Officer** means "a member of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or an organized local police department, a chief inspector or inspector in the Division of Criminal Justice, a state marshal while exercising authority granted under any provision of the general statutes, a judicial marshal in the performance of the duties of a judicial marshal, a conservation officer or special conservation officer, as defined in section 26-5, a constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties, a special policeman appointed under sections 29-18, 29-18a or 29-19, an adult probation officer, an official of the Department of Correction authorized by the Commissioner of Correction to make arrests in a correctional institution or facility, any investigator in the investigations unit of the office of the State Treasurer, an inspector of motor vehicles in the Department of Motor Vehicles, who is certified under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, a United States marshal or deputy marshal, any special agent of the federal government authorized to enforce the provisions of Title 21 of the United States Code, or a member of a law enforcement unit of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe or the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut created and governed by a memorandum of agreement under section 47-65c who is certified as a police officer by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive." Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-3(9).

d. **Real Property** means the land and all temporary and permanent structures comprising the Bethany Public School District's (District) elementary school and administrative office building. Real property includes, but is not limited to, the following: classrooms, hallways, storage facilities, gymnasiums, fields, and parking lots.

e. **School-Sponsored Activity** means "any activity sponsored, recognized or authorized by a board of education and includes activities conducted on or off school property." Connecticut General Statutes § 10-233a(h).

II. Prohibition of Deadly Weapons and Firearms

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 29-28(e) and § 53a-217b, the possession and/or use of a deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of the school or the District's administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity, is prohibited, even if the person possessing the deadly weapon or firearm has a permit for such item.

III. Peace Officer Exception

A peace officer engaged in the performance of the individual's official duties who is in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may bring such items on the real property of the school or administrative office building in the District, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity.

IV. Other Exceptions

Persons in lawful possession of a deadly weapon or firearm may possess such item on the real property of the school or the District's administrative office building, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity if:

a. The person brings the deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of the school or administrative office building, on school transportation, or to a school-sponsored activity for use in a program approved by school officials. In such case, the person must give school officials notice of the individual's intention to bring such item, and the person must receive prior written permission from school officials.

b. The person possesses the deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of the school or administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity pursuant to a written agreement with school officials or a written agreement between such person's employer and school officials.

V. Consequences

a. Unless subject to one of the exceptions listed above, any person who possesses a deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of the District, or administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity, whether or not the person is lawfully permitted to carry such deadly weapon or firearm, will be reported to the local police authorities once school officials become aware of its possession.

b. A student who possesses and/or uses any deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of the school, or administrative office building, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity in violation of this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with the Bethany Board of Education (Board) Student Discipline Policy.

c. The Board reserves the right to forbid anyone caught possessing a deadly weapon or firearm on the real property of its school building, on school transportation, or administrative office building, or at a school-sponsored activity, from using any and all school facilities.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-233a
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-244a
Connecticut General Statutes § 29-28(e)
Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-3
Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-217b

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