Colby-Sawyer College Weapons Policy

Policy Statement

Colby-Sawyer College prohibits the possession of dangerous weapons on college-owned or controlled property and at college-sponsored or sanctioned events, except as specifically authorized by this policy, applicable law, or the Director of Campus Safety.

Except as otherwise provided below, no person may possess, carry, use, transport, store, or otherwise have custody or control of a weapon, whether temporarily or permanently, while on college-owned or controlled property or at a college-sponsored or sanctioned event.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, visitors, guests, and other persons while on college-owned or controlled property or participating in college-sponsored or sanctioned activities.

Prohibited Weapons

For purposes of this policy, prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to:

- Firearms, whether loaded or unloaded, and ammunition;
- Fireworks, firecrackers, black powder, explosives, or other explosive devices;
- Personal knives with blades two inches or longer, swords, dirks, daggers, stilettos, switchblades, hatchets, machetes, and other bladed instruments;
- Archery and target-practice equipment;
- Pellet guns, airsoft guns, slingshots, and other devices designed to propel a projectile;
- Clubs, truncheons, blackjacks, metal knuckles, and similar striking instruments;
- Martial arts weapons, including nunchakus, staffs, and throwing stars;
- Any object designed or readily converted for use as a weapon, or any object used or threatened to be used to cause bodily injury, harm, or intimidation; and
- Laser pointers when used in a manner intended or reasonably likely to cause harm or interfere with the safety of others.

Kitchen knives manufactured specifically for food preparation are permitted but must be safely stored when not in use in accordance with applicable College and Residential Education requirements.

Personal Protection Devices

Chemical or pepper spray intended for lawful personal protection and self-defense is permitted on campus. Misuse of these devices is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. Individuals responsible for misuse may also be responsible for costs incurred by the College as a result of that misuse.

Exceptions

Law Enforcement. Sworn law enforcement officers acting within the scope of their official duties are exempt from this policy.

Firearms and Ammunition Stored in Employee Vehicles. In accordance with New Hampshire RSA 159:27, an employee who may legally possess a firearm may store a firearm or ammunition in the employee's vehicle while entering or exiting College property or while the vehicle is parked on college property, provided the vehicle is locked and the firearm or ammunition is not visible.

The College will not take adverse action against an employee for storing a firearm or ammunition in accordance with RSA 159:27. The College will not require an employee to disclose whether a firearm or ammunition is stored in the employee's vehicle and will not search an employee's vehicle for a firearm or ammunition. Nothing in this provision restricts a law enforcement officer from conducting a lawful search pursuant to a warrant or recognized exception to the warrant requirement.

This exception does not authorize an employee to carry or possess a firearm elsewhere on college property or in any location where possession or carrying is prohibited by law.

College-Authorized Exceptions. The Director of Campus Safety may authorize additional exceptions in writing for legitimate job-related, educational, cultural, demonstration, or other appropriate purposes consistent with college policy and applicable law. Any authorization may establish conditions governing possession, storage, transportation, supervision, or use of the authorized item.

Violations and Enforcement

Weapons possessed or used in violation of this policy may be confiscated when permitted by law and College policy.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action under the Code of Community Responsibility, up to and including suspension or separation from the College and loss of college housing privileges.

Employees who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action under applicable College employment policies, up to and including termination of employment.

Contractors, vendors, visitors, guests, or other persons who violate this policy may be directed to leave College property, prohibited from returning, or subject to other appropriate action.

Depending upon the nature of the weapon and the circumstances surrounding its possession or use, the College may notify the New London Police Department or other appropriate law enforcement agency.

Reporting

Suspected violations of this policy should be reported promptly to the Colby-Sawyer College Department of Campus Safety at 603-526-3675.

In an emergency or when there is an immediate threat to life or safety, call 911.