

3-1-6 Weapons in the Library

Adopted 05/17/2023

Josephine Community Library District (JCLD) takes the safety of all library workers, volunteers, patrons, and potential patrons seriously. JCLD strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the community. JCLD deplores violence in all forms. Harassment, physical abuse, fighting, and threatening or dangerous behavior will never be tolerated.

Oregon law places special restrictions on the possession of weapons in public buildings. This section clarifies Oregon law and JCLD's weapons policy. The information provided in this policy does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available in this policy are for general informational purposes only.

Oregon law provides guidance on the possession of firearms or dangerous weapons in public buildings (ORS 166.370).

- **All firearms, excluding handguns in certain situations, are prohibited at the library.**
- **Dangerous weapons are prohibited at the library.**
 - In this context, the term “dangerous weapon” has a specific legal definition. An item must be wielded in a specific way for it to be considered a dangerous weapon.
 - “A dangerous weapon means any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance which under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury” (ORS 161.015).
- **Handguns are prohibited at the library with certain exceptions allowed by law.**
 - Oregon law provides exemptions for various individuals (ORS 166.370). Those exempt from the prohibition include individuals in various professions such as, but not limited to, law enforcement; and individuals who possess a valid Concealed Handgun License (CHL).
 - Although Oregon law specifically allows individuals with a valid “Concealed” Handgun License to possess a handgun in public buildings, the law does not require the handgun to be concealed. JCLD respectfully requests those with a CHL conceal their handguns.

JCLD is committed to following Oregon State Law. Any violation of the above rules will result in an immediate and appropriate response, including notifying law enforcement for appropriate legal action.