



DANGEROUS WEAPONS

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PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE DANGEROUS WEAPONS LAWS

Illegally carrying a dangerous weapon on one's person is a class E felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$3,000, imprisonment for up to three years, or both ([CGS §§ 53-206](#), [53a-41](#), [53a-35a](#)).

Illegally carrying a dangerous weapon in a vehicle is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both ([CGS § 29-38](#)).

ISSUE

What laws govern possession and carrying of dangerous weapons in Connecticut?

SUMMARY

State law prohibits the possession of dangerous weapons by most people. The only people authorized to carry all of the prohibited weapons are peace officers, and they may carry them only in pursuit of their official duties.

Other exemptions apply to security officers, who may carry batons or night sticks when pursuing their official duties; martial arts students or instructors, who may carry martial arts weapons while in classes or at

authorized events or while transporting the weapons to and from such places; and participants attending or returning from authorized Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts events or competitions, who may possess BB guns. The law also contains limited exceptions for long knives (discussed below).

DANGEROUS WEAPONS

What are Dangerous Weapons?

The law defines "dangerous weapons" as any of the following:

1. BB gun, blackjack, metal or brass knuckles;
2. any dirk knife;
3. any switchblade knife with a blade longer than one and one-half inches;
4. any knife that has an edged blade four inches or more in length (long knives);

5. stiletto;
6. police baton or nightstick;
7. martial arts weapon;
8. electronic defense weapon; or
9. any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument ([CGS § 53-206](#)).

Prohibitions

With some exceptions, state law prohibits anyone from carrying dangerous weapons on their person or knowingly having any such weapon in his or her vehicle ([CGS §§ 53-206 & 29-38](#)).

The ban does not apply to (1) peace officers who, while performing their official duties, carry any of the listed weapons or (2) security guards carrying batons or nightsticks while engaged in their official duties.

Long Knives

The law allows the following to carry long knives:

1. U.S. Armed Forces members or reservists, or state armed forces members, when on or going to or from duty;
2. members of a military organization while on parade or going to or from a place of assembly;
3. anyone transporting the knives as merchandise or for display at an authorized gun or knife show;
4. anyone carrying concealed knives (a) while lawfully moving household goods or (b) to or from a repair place; or
5. anyone holding a valid state hunting, fishing, or trapping license or any salt water fisherman carrying the knife for lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping; or
6. anyone participating in authorized historic reenactments.

BB Guns

The law allows BB guns to be carried by (a) participants in or going to or coming from supervised events or competitions of the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts of America or other authorized events or competitions and (b) people on or going to or from their own property and on or going to or from someone else's property with the person's permission.

Martial Arts Weapons

The law allows martial arts weapons to be carried by people enrolled in, currently attending, or serving as instructors at a martial arts school while in a class or at an authorized event or competition, or when going to or from such class, event, or competition.

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