

DANGEROUS WEAPONS PROCEDURE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Beloit Public Library Board is committed to protecting the safety and welfare of library employees and visitors and recognizes its responsibility to lawfully regulate and manage library property. Toward this commitment, the Library Board has prohibited the carrying of dangerous weapons in the Library in accordance with the Wisconsin Personal Protection Act of 2011.

- Any person other than a law enforcement officer is prohibited from entering or remaining in the Beloit Public Library while carrying a dangerous weapon.
- It is NOT your responsibility to try to determine if an individual may be carrying. We are not implementing metal detectors, and we are not searching bags, pockets, etc. This policy simply gives employees the authority to call 911 any time they see a dangerous weapon in the Library, without having to determine if the individual has a permit to carry concealed.
- Employees may call 911 themselves, or you all may contact a supervisor or a security monitor for assistance. If you feel there is a threat, please don't wait for a supervisor; call 911 immediately. YOU do not have to ask a patron carrying a weapon to leave the building; employees should not put themselves at risk since it is difficult to anticipate how each patron might react. The police are much better equipped to handle these situations.
- This new policy was needed because of the change in the state law, but it really doesn't change the way we do business. Guns/weapons were never allowed in the Library under open carry, and they are still not allowed under concealed carry.
- Signs meeting the requirements of state statutes shall be posted in prominent places near entrances to the Library, notifying our customers that they cannot bring their weapons inside. It IS okay for them to leave them in their vehicles.
- Staff: If you have a permit to carry, the same rules apply to you. You may leave your weapon in your car while at work, but you cannot bring it in the building with you. You may also not carry your weapon while on-duty off-site. (For example, while doing storytimes at the swimming pool.)
- "Dangerous weapon" means any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; any device designed as a weapon and capable of producing death or great bodily harm; any ligature or other instrumentality used on the throat, neck, nose, or mouth of another person to impede, partially or completely, breathing or circulation of blood; any electric weapon, as defined by WI State Statute 941.295 (1c)(a); or any other device or instrumentality which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm.
- Violations should be reported to the local police and the Library Director (Incident Report).