
MANITOWOC COUNTY WEAPONS POLICY

1. Purpose.

The purpose of this policy is to set forth Manitowoc County's regulations regarding the carrying, possession, storage, and transportation of weapons on county property, including in county buildings and vehicles.

2. Definitions.

In this policy:

“County building” means a building, or any part of a building, that is owned, occupied, or controlled by Manitowoc County, but does not include any business or residential space in a county building that is leased out and does not include a vehicle driven or parked in a parking facility that is part of a county building.

“County vehicle” means a vehicle that is owned, occupied, or controlled by Manitowoc County.

“County special event” means a special event that is conducted by the county or held on county property, is open to the public, is for a duration of not more than 3 weeks, and either requires an admission or has designated entrances to and from the event that are locked when the event is closed.

“Law enforcement officer” means any current or former state, out-of-state, or federal law enforcement officer who is recognized under federal and Wisconsin law as authorized and qualified to carry a concealed weapon.

“Licensee” means a person who has a current concealed carry weapons license issued by the State of Wisconsin or a state recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Justice pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 165.25(12m).

“Weapon” means any device that is designed, used, or intended to be used in a manner that is calculated or likely to produce property damage, personal injury, or death. It includes, but is not limited to, any ammunition; baton or billy club; biological or chemical weapon, other than pepper spray intended for self-defense; brass knuckles; electric weapon; explosive; firearm or gun,

including a pellet or BB gun; knife, other than an eating utensil, with a cutting blade longer than 3 inches; or martial arts device.

3. Concealed Carry.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this policy, Manitowoc County permits the concealed carry of a firearm or other weapon on county property by a licensee or a law enforcement officer.
- (b) A licensee may not carry a concealed weapon in any building or other location where concealed carry is prohibited by state law. Such buildings include, but are not limited to, the courthouse, jail, and sheriff's department.
- (c) Any other provision of this policy notwithstanding, a licensee who is an assistant district attorney, a district attorney, a judge, or a person authorized by a judge may carry a concealed weapon in the courthouse pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 175.60(16)(b)2. and 3.
- (d) Any other provision of this policy notwithstanding, Manitowoc County prohibits the concealed carry of a firearm or other weapon in the following building(s):

Communications & Technology Building
1024 South 9th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Human Services Department Main Office
926 South 8th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Human Services Department Job Center Office
3733 Dewey Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

- (e) Any other provision of this policy notwithstanding, Manitowoc County prohibits the concealed carry of a firearm or other weapon on the Manitowoc County Airport grounds during any airshow, except as authorized by state or federal law.
- (f) Any other provision of this policy notwithstanding, Manitowoc County prohibits the concealed carry of a firearm or other weapon on the Expo grounds during the county fair, except as authorized by state or federal law.

- (g) Any other provision of this policy notwithstanding, a licensee who is an employee of Manitowoc County must comply with the county's Workplace Violence Policy.

4. Open Carry.

Manitowoc County prohibits the open carry of a firearm or other weapon in a county building or vehicle, except by a current law enforcement officer or a member of the armed forces who is on active duty.

5. Firearms Training Exception.

A person attending firearms training on county property is authorized to transport a firearm to the training facility or shooting range, provided that the person complies with all requirements set by state law and the Sheriff's Department.

6. Vehicles.

A person may carry, possess, store, or transport a firearm or handgun in a vehicle while on county property, subject to any restrictions imposed by state law.

7. Special Event Exceptions.

The Public Works Committee is authorized to grant exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis for special events held on the Expo grounds or on other county property where granting the exception is appropriate. The Public Works Committee may consider the nature of the event, such as a gun show or military re-enactment, the size of the event, or the need to provide crowd control or security when determining whether to grant an exception. The Public Works Committee shall report any exception that it grants to the county board at the first county board meeting that takes place following the date that the committee grants the exception.

8. Signage.

- (a) The Public Works Department is responsible for ensuring that all county buildings and events are posted with signs providing appropriate notice to the public whenever notice is required by law.

- (b) In addition to any notice required by law, the Public Works Department is responsible for ensuring that all county buildings where concealed weapons are prohibited by statute are posted with signs providing appropriate notice to the public. Such buildings include, but are not limited to, the courthouse, jail, and sheriff's department.
- (c) A building sign must be at least 5 x 7-inches in size.
- (d) An event sign must be at least 11-inches square.

9. Violations.

- (a) Violations of this policy may be referred to law enforcement or the district attorney for prosecution in accordance with Wisconsin law.
- (b) Violations of this policy by a county employee are grounds for discipline, up to and including discharge from employment.

10. Miscellaneous Provisions.

- (a) This policy is intended to be consistent with and does not supersede any state or federal law.
- (b) The references in this policy to Wisconsin and federal laws are to the statutes as they exist on the effective date of this policy and as thereafter amended.
- (c) This policy supercedes all previous policies regarding the carrying, possession, storage, or transportation of firearms or other weapons on county property.
- (d) The provisions in this policy are severable from each other. If any provision or its application to any person or circumstance is found by a court to be invalid, the remaining provisions and the application of those provisions will remain in force and will not be affected or impaired in any way.

11. Effective Date.

Pursuant to Manitowoc County Board Resolution 2011/2012-88, this policy is effective March 1, 2012.