

Concealed Carry of Firearms

Public Act 98-63, the [Firearm Concealed Carry Act](#) (430 ILCS 66) legalizes the concealed carry of firearms in the state of Illinois. Interested residents must complete an application and take a certified training course before being issued a license. The first licenses are expected to be issued in late January or February 2014.

What does the Concealed Carry legislation mean for libraries?

This state law trumps any local ordinances regarding the regulation of firearms. The new law specifies 23 areas where carrying firearms will be prohibited, even for those who obtain a concealed carry license. Public libraries are one of those prohibited areas, along with schools, hospitals, and other specific places.

Section 65. Prohibited areas.

(a) A licensee under this Act shall not knowingly carry a firearm on or into:

(18) Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a public library.

It will not be legal to possess a firearm on library property. Violations will be reported to law enforcement.

The library is obligated to post signs at the main entrance, at the parking entrance, and at the sidewalk entrance, notifying the public that firearms are prohibited here. The Illinois State Police have specified the exact signage to be used, which is an image of a handgun with a red circle and slash through it, similar to a no smoking sign.

Parking Lot Exception

A person with a concealed carry license may store a firearm in a case within a locked vehicle or in a locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking lot.

Further Questions

The Illinois State Police has published a website with a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page. Refer to this site for more information about the concealed carry law and rules.

Text of the Act: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0063.pdf>

Illinois State Police FAQ: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/firearms/ccw/ccw-faq.cfm>