
1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

1. The purpose is to inform faculty, staff, students, and visitors of the rules regarding the carrying of knives on the physical premises of Texas Southern University ("TSU"), any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by TSU is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of TSU.
2. This policy is designed to comply with the relevant state law and to address the health, safety, and welfare of the campus community.
3. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, guests, and visitors of the University. This policy does not apply to Texas Southern University police officers or commissioned security guards.

2. BACKGROUND:

1. The Texas Legislature, effective on September 1, 2017, generally removed restrictions on the carry of knives in Texas. Specifically, House Bill 1935 eliminated Bowie knives, daggers, dirks, stilettos, poniards, swords and spears from state law (Texas Penal Code, Section 46.02) and the definition of an "illegal knife" (Texas Penal Code, Section 46.01 (6)). They may be carried throughout the State of Texas except for restrictions on certain location for knives with blades over 5.5 inches.
2. In relevant part, there is an exception for knives with blades over 5.5 inches in certain restricted locations such as universities.

3. DEFINITIONS:

1. Location-Restricted Knives: Knives with blades over 5.5 inches, including swords and spears, cannot be carried in the following locations:
 - Physical premises of TSU,
 - Any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by TSU is being conducted, or
 - A passenger transportation vehicle of TSU.
2. Blade length is measured in a straight line from the most forward part of the handle (or where that would normally be if there is no added handle to the tang of the knife) to the point of the blade.
3. Physical premises- Any building, area, or land owned, leased, or used by TSU or subject to its control, including University facilities.

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- 4, University Facilities The spaces on University property with defined enclosures for a designated use, such as an academic building, a residence hall, a theatre, an athletic field, or a stadium.
 5. Residence Halls The buildings on University property used to house students and/or staff.

4. POLICY PROVISIONS:

1. All individuals that this policy applies to are prohibited from possessing a location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon listed in Section 46.05(a) of the Texas Penal Code on the physical premises of TSU, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by TSU is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of TSU
2. Texas Southern University will not provide any storage for Location-Restricted Knives,
3. Any person who violates my provision of this policy will be subject to all appropriate penalties under Texas Southern University policies and applicable laws of the State of Texas, including criminal prosecution.

5. PROCEDURES:

L TSU will provide written notification that state the following:

"A-Il individuals that this policy applies to are prohibited from possessing a location-restricted knife, club, 01' prohibited weapon listed in Section of the Texas Penal Code on the physical premises of TSU any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by TSU is being conducted, or in a passenger transportation vehicle of TSU. The penalty for carry of a Location-Restricted Knife is a 3rd degree Felony?"

2. The written communication may be conveyed in one of two ways:
 - i) A card or other written documents that contains the language above, or ii) Signage in both Spanish and English displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public, with contrasting colors and block letters at least one inch in height.
3. In even-numbered years by September 1, the University will submit to the Texas Legislature a copy of its policy along with the justification used for development of the policy and any changes.