



SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



GUN FREE ZONE – SENSITIVE PLACES LAW & CONCEALED CARRYING FIREARMS

The purpose of this bulletin is to bring to your attention an update on a recent [decision](#) by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Nos. 23-1900, 23-2043 - Ronald Koons (Plaintiff) ET AL., v. Attorney General New Jersey, (Defendant) ET AL.

The New Jersey Attorney General on October 9, 2025, notified the Morris County Prosecutor's Office that its office had secured a major victory before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, whereby it had successfully defended New Jersey's "Sensitive Places Law (P.L. 2022, Chapter 131; N.J.S. 2C:58-4.6," which prohibits the carrying of concealed weapons in specified public locations (unless exempted by N.J.S. 2C:39-6), including:

- Locations with vulnerable populations, such as schools/colleges/universities, school buses, child-care facilities, summer camps, health care facilities, correctional facilities, and shelters;
- Locations of public congregations, such as: public parks, zoos, beaches, playgrounds, libraries, museums, bars, and restaurants that serve alcohol, casinos and attached facilities, public or private entertainment facilities including racetracks, stadiums, and theaters, airports and public transit hubs, recreation facility or area owned or controlled by a public entity, public locations during motion picture filming, and within 100 feet of a public gather/demonstration/event; and
- Locations where governmental activity is being carried out, such as government buildings, law enforcement offices, courthouses, and polling places.

Appropriate signage can often be beneficial, as it puts people on notice and assists in informing the general public. We encourage Municipal leaders to review this decision and the law to determine which signage would best meet the needs of their facilities. The New Jersey Attorney General's office offers [decals](#) that can be downloaded from its website.

Municipalities are not required to pass a local ordinance to enforce these restrictions. The New Jersey Criminal Code covers the enforcement of the law under [N.J.S. 2C:58-4.6](#). There are exemptions to this law under [N.J.S. 2C:39-6](#).

Violations of this law, resulting in a conviction, are punishable by up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to \$15,000.

Municipal leaders are encouraged to discuss this issue with their local police officials to ensure that officers are properly trained in the application of this law, including the specific exemptions. Furthermore, Municipal leaders should ensure that all employees are aware of this legislation and understand the actions they should take if they learn of a person carrying a firearm, possibly in violation of the law.

The Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund has a Model Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual for Civil Service and Non-Civil Service jurisdictions. The Manual addresses the possession of firearms by public employees. If you have adopted the manual in its entirety, no changes to it are necessary.

Please review your Policies and Procedures Manual. You can access the Model Policies at the links listed below:

[Non-Civil Service Municipalities](#)

[Civil Service Municipalities](#)