



Office of the Archbishop  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611-2030  
312.534.8230  
archchicago.org

## DECREE OF PROMULGATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

The *Policies and Procedures* of the Archdiocese of Chicago serve as the official compendium of particular law, applying the norms of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* and other regulations for the life of faith in our Church community. The *Policies and Procedures* also provide a common, unifying perspective in offering pastoral care, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ to the people of Cook and Lake Counties in Illinois.

The purpose of the policy appended hereto is to update and clarify the issue of possession of firearms on property owned and controlled by the Archdioceses of Chicago. This policy is rooted in the belief that our churches, schools, administrative facilities or any other facilities owned, leased or operated by the Archdiocese are intended to be sites where people come to gather, pray and worship in safety and peace. The intent of this policy is to balance the rights of all who approach Archdiocesan churches, schools or other facilities with the greatest possible protection for children, the elderly and otherwise vulnerable people of our society.

Accordingly, by this Decree and, in accord with Canons 8§2, 12§3 and 135§2, of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, I, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, hereby promulgate as particular law for the whole of the Archdiocese of Chicago the policy appended hereto and incorporate such policy into the *Policies and Procedures* of the Archdiocese of Chicago, abrogating anything to the contrary heretofore decreed.

Further, I entrust this particular law to the watchful care of all concerned for its implementation and observance and declare that it shall have effect from the fourteenth day of September, 2017.

Promulgated at the Archbishop Quigley Pastoral Center in Chicago, Illinois this fifth day of September, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cardinal Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. Sultz".

Chancellor  
September 5, 2017

Archdiocese of Chicago  
Prohibition of Firearms on Archdiocesan Property

**I. FIREARMS POLICY**

It is the Policy of the Archdiocese of Chicago (the “Archdiocese”) that no firearm will be permitted on any property owned and controlled by the Archdiocese. This prohibition applies to any church, school, administrative facility, or other facility owned and controlled by the Archdiocese, except as otherwise permitted herein.

**II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to update and clarify the Archdiocese’s position on the possession of firearms on property owned and controlled by the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese respects and supports the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and recognizes the right to lawfully possess a firearm for personal protection, hunting, or other sports. However, this Policy is rooted in the belief that our churches and community spaces are intended to be sacred sites where people come to gather, pray, and worship God.

Utilizing this Policy as the minimum standards required by the Archdiocese, any church, school, or other Archdiocesan owned and controlled facility may enact stricter restrictions in compliance with civil and canon law, such as banning additional types of weapons, that may be appropriate under their unique circumstances.

**III. PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

No person may possess a firearm in any facility owned and controlled by the Archdiocese, subject to the exceptions contained herein.

For purposes of this Policy, firearm means any device, by whatever name known, which is designed to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosion, expansion of gas or escape of gas, or the build-up and release of tension or pressure. By way of example, this definition includes, but is not limited to, any pistol, revolver, or other handgun, and any shotgun, rifle, or other long gun.

Any cleric or employee who carries or stores a firearm in an Archdiocesan facility in violation of this Policy may be subject to disciplinary action and will be asked to remove the firearm from the facility and return only when the firearm has been removed.

Any non-cleric or non-employee who carries or stores a firearm in an Archdiocesan facility in violation of this Policy will be asked to remove the firearm from the facility and return only when the firearm has been removed. Persons who fail to comply with requests to leave the facility will be considered trespassers until they come into compliance.

In enforcing this Policy, the safety of persons at the facility should be the primary concern of Archdiocesan personnel. Clergy, employees, or other persons acting on behalf of the Archdiocese should avoid provoking a confrontation with a person who may be in possession of

a firearm. If the person in possession of the firearm does not comply with the initial request to remove the firearm, Archdiocesan personnel should contact law enforcement authorities to address the issue.

#### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION**

To effectuate this Policy, signs stating that the carrying of firearms is prohibited shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at the entrance of all Archdiocesan owned and controlled facilities. The signs shall be of the uniform design established by the Illinois Department of State Police.

#### **V. EXCEPTIONS**

This Policy is subject to the following exceptions:

1. This Policy does not prohibit the possession of firearms on Archdiocesan property by those who, despite the posting of prohibitive signs referenced in Section IV, are explicitly authorized by law to carry a firearm, such as municipal, state, or federal law enforcement officers, or authorized security personnel.
2. This Policy does not prohibit clergy from lawfully possessing a firearm used for hunting or sport in a residential space owned and controlled by the Archdiocese, so long as the firearm is unloaded and securely stored in a lockbox or safe.
3. This Policy does not prohibit the lawful possession of a firearm within a vehicle by those who are in, or travelling to or from, a parking area associated with an Archdiocesan facility, so long as the firearm remains stored in a locked or secured compartment within the vehicle in accordance with Illinois law.
4. The Archbishop of Chicago or the Vicar General may grant an exception to this Policy when necessary for the protection of persons or property under their authority.