

# CAMPUS CARRY

## Student Fact Sheet



Updated: 7.1.2017

### Overview

In 2015, the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 11, commonly referred to as the *Campus Carry Law*. This law made it legal for handgun license holders (otherwise known as LTC holders) to carry a handgun **concealed** into a higher education campus building. On August 1, 2017, this law became applicable at two-year schools such as Lone Star College. This document provides the information you need to understand the law and how it is applied.

### Concealed Carry Only, Not Open Carry

The campus carry law allows only LTC holders to carry concealed handguns in a campus building. **Open carry on campus is still illegal.** As defined by the law, concealed means the handgun is covered and not visible.

- If a person carries a concealed handgun and you can see the shape of a gun underneath the person's clothing, it is still considered concealed.
- If the bottom of a holster can be seen from under a person's shirt, that is still considered concealed.
- The actual handgun must be visible to the naked eye to be considered open carry.
- Incidental display of a firearm (i.e. the firearm is briefly seen while a person reaches into his or her pocket or purse for a wallet) is not considered open carry and is not a violation of the law.

### There Are Still Some Areas Where Handguns Are Restricted

The law allows institutions to keep some areas gun free (called Exclusion Zones) for specific safety reasons, as long as it does not "generally prohibit or have the effect of generally prohibiting the carrying of a handgun by a LTC holder". For example, Lone Star College can designate science labs, where there are explosive chemical or gas lines, as Exclusion Zones.

However, Lone Star College cannot designate general use classrooms or hallways as Exclusion Zones. A complete list of all Exclusions Zones can be found at [www.lonestar.edu/campuscarry](http://www.lonestar.edu/campuscarry). You can also look for this sign, which will be posted at the entrance of any Exclusion Zone.



### What Do I Do If I See A Gun?

The same thing you would do before the law went into effect – **Call the LSC Police Department at 281-290-5911** (x5911 from any campus phone) or pick up a direct-dial classroom wall phone. The law only allows concealed carry. If you see a firearm, that is a violation of the law. Do not take matters into your own hands. Only the LSC Police should confront someone to determine if they are legally in possession of a firearm.

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### **What Happens When I Call LSC Police?**

If you suspect someone is carrying a concealed firearm into an Exclusion Zone or you see someone carrying a firearm openly, call the **LSC Police immediately at 281-290-5911**. Police officers will respond to determine if the individual is licensed to carry a handgun and if he/she violated a criminal statute. Violations of criminal statute will be handled by court summons or arrest as determined by law. All violations will also be referred to student and/or employee disciplinary processes. The criminal justice process and the LSC disciplinary process are mutually exclusive. Both will be brought to bear on anyone who violates the law.

### **Should I Expect More Gun Violence On Campus?**

No. The law allows law-abiding citizens to carry a concealed handgun inside campus buildings. Concealed carry has been allowed in Texas for over 20 years. During that time, crime rates have not increased. Four-year universities have had campus carry since August 1, 2016 with no increase in crime rates.

### **I Am Carrying Concealed On Campus, But Have A Class In An Area That Is An Exclusion Zone**

It is the student's responsibility to know where he or she can and cannot carry. If your class is in a room designated an Exclusion Zone, you must disarm before entering that room.

### **Will There Be Gun Lockers?**

Lone Star College will not provide gun lockers. It is the handgun carrier's responsibility to secure his/her firearm.

### **What Do I Do If I Am Carrying A Handgun And I Am Meeting With A Professor Whose Private Office Is An Exclusion Zone?**

Professors with private offices may designate them as Exclusion Zones, but they must supply an alternate meeting location that is not an Exclusion Zone upon request. If a student would like an alternate meeting location, the student should politely make this request of his or her professor.

### **Liability**

Anyone who chooses to carry a firearm must keep in mind that civil and criminal liabilities apply. Choosing to carry a firearm is a heavy responsibility that must be researched and understood beforehand.

### **I Still Have Lots of Questions**

Please first visit the Lone Star College Campus Carry Website at [www.lonestar.edu/campus\\_carry](http://www.lonestar.edu/campus_carry). This website includes information about campus carry laws, links to the Texas Department of Public Safety License to Carry website, and answers to frequently asked questions. If you still do not find your answer, feel free to email your question to [campuscarry@lonestar.edu](mailto:campuscarry@lonestar.edu).