

## **Dangerous Weapons on Campus**

*Effective: July 2024*

### **PURPOSE**

Dangerous Weapons on Campus Administrative Procedure establishes the guidelines and the safety and protection of all members of the campus community relating to dangerous weapons on Pierpont Community & Technical College (“Pierpont” or “College”) property.

### **SCOPE**

The term “dangerous weapon” includes, but is not limited to, firearms; knives other than folding pocketknives with blades three- and one-half inches long or less or those used for food preparation; bladed weapons such as swords, razors or arrows; ammunition; explosives or explosive devices; nun chucks or similar martial arts weapons; and throwing devices with sharp or pointed edges; or any device or substance designed to or used to inflict a wound, cause injury, or incapacitate. Dangerous weapons, other than firearms as provided herein, are not permitted on Pierpont property.

### **POLICY**

Regarding firearms, the Campus Self-Defense Act (“the Act”), enacted in 2023 and effective as of July 1, 2024, permits any individual with a valid concealed carry license to carry a concealed weapon (pistol or revolver) on campus and in buildings of a state institution of higher education (IHE). Under the Act, however, higher education institutions are permitted to regulate the possession of a concealed pistol or revolver in specific areas. Other firearms continue to be prohibited on campus. Accordingly, Pierpont restricts concealed carrying of firearms in the following areas, as authorized by W. Va. Code §18B-4-5b:

1. In an on-campus room or rooms where a previously announced student or employee disciplinary proceeding is held;
2. At a daycare facility located on the property of the College;
3. In a sole occupancy office on the campus and the buildings of the College, when the occupant has placed an explicitly visible sign outside their office indicating weapons are not permitted past the threshold. However, unless prohibited in this procedure elsewhere, faculty and staff members who hold a current and valid concealed carry license are permitted to carry a concealed pistol or revolver in their assigned office. “Sole occupancy office” means a room with at least one door and walls that extend to the ceiling that is assigned to a single person as his or her workspace;
4. In highly hazardous and animal laboratories.
  - a. Welding lab

- b. Animal research laboratory spaces in locations not accessible to the public or generally accessible to students and staff
  - c. Other labs and areas of the College that meet the requirements of WV Code §18B-4-5b, (b)(11)(A-E) and specified by signage;
5. At a primary or secondary education school-sponsored function held in a specific location on the College property; or
6. At a private function held in a specific location on the property of the College that is rented, leased, or under the exclusive use of an entity that is not affiliated with the College for the actual period of time the function is occurring. Pierpont will allow the lessee or event organizer to determine if it permits concealed carry by its attendees.

Individuals with a valid concealed carry permit who want to enter areas of the College where firearms are restricted must first secure their weapon in their privately owned vehicle in accordance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §61-7-14. The Business Liability Protection Act (W. Va. Code §61-7-14) permits employees, students, and visitors to keep a gun securely “locked inside” or “locked to” a privately owned vehicle in a manner that is “out of view,” while the vehicle is otherwise lawfully on a Pierpont campus and parked in a College parking lot.

It is unlawful for the College, or any of its employees or agents, to communicate with any person to learn whether they are acting properly under the Campus Self-Defense Act or the Business Liability Protection Act. It is unlawful to, in any manner, discourage a person from exercising their right to have a weapon lawfully secured in their vehicle or lawfully on their person. If a College employee does either, their actions constitute employee misconduct and the College may take appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with the appropriate Code of Conduct.

College employees, while on College property or elsewhere, acting in the capacity of a College employee, are not to engage with any person to try to ascertain if that person holds a valid concealed carry license, is carrying a concealed firearm, or is otherwise exercising their right provided for in the Campus Self-Defense Act.

The Campus Self-Defense Act and the Business Liability Protection Act do not allow for weapons to be carried openly, stored in a vehicle in a visible or unlocked manner, or intentionally brandished. If you think a person is carrying or storing a firearm in a manner that is outside the protection of the law, but you do not believe yourself or others to be in danger, you should not call 911. Instead, contact the Campus Security Officer and describe the concern to them. For your safety, do not confront or communicate with the individual you suspect of carrying or storing a firearm in a non-compliant manner.