

Bedford Public Library

Open Carry Policy

Policy Statement 1—Texas Open Carry

The Library will comply with the Texas Open Carry Law.

- 1.1 It is illegal for the general public to carry a handgun, whether concealed or not, in a public place – unless they have a special license to carry ([Texas Penal Code §46.02](#)).
- 1.2 Individuals who have a Concealed Handgun License (CHL) to carry a concealed handgun may openly carry the weapon using a shoulder or belt holster at the Library.
- 1.3 It is illegal to brandish a firearm in any way that might be interpreted as threatening ([Texas Penal Code §42.01](#)).
- 1.4 Staff may not ask a patron who has a holstered weapon to see their CHL permit.
- 1.5 Staff should contact law enforcement personnel if a person carrying a handgun exhibits alarming behaviors.

Policy Statement 2—Prohibition of Handguns

There are times by Texas Law when handguns are not allowed at the Library.

- 2.1 Handguns are not allowed at a library, even for licensed carriers, during school-sponsored activities on library grounds ([Texas Penal Code §46.03\(a\)\(1\)](#)).
- 2.2 Handguns are not allowed during early voting or on election day if the library is a polling place ([Texas Penal Code §46.03\(a\)\(2\)](#)).
- 2.3 Handguns are not allowed during a meeting of a governmental body, but only in the room where the meeting is being held where appropriate signage has been posted ([Texas Penal Code §46.035\(c\)](#)).

Policy Statement 3—Staff and Volunteers

The Library may restrict staff and volunteers from carrying handguns in the library.

- 3.1 Library staff and volunteers are prohibited from carrying a handgun in the Library whether they have a CHL permit or not.
- 3.2 Library staff and volunteers who are licensed to carry a handgun may store their weapon in a locked personal vehicle in the parking lot ([Texas Labor Code §52.061](#)).