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July 29, 2016

On June 13, 2015, Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed in to law Senate Bill 11, the campus concealed carry bill.  Effective August 1, 2016, this authorizes a handgun license holder to carry a concealed handgun on the campus of an institution of higher education, including all Texas A&M University System member institutions. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi recognizes and enforces state law regulating firearms on campus.

**Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Campus Carry**

**Q: Who may carry a concealed handgun on our campus?**

**A:**  Individuals holding a valid Texas concealed handgun license (CHL) or license to carry (LTC) will be allowed to carry their handgun, concealed on their person, on the campus. A concealed handgun is a weapon which is not openly discernible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.

**Q: Does this new law allow for open carry?**

**A:** No, Senate Bill 11 addresses only concealed handgun carry on college campuses and does NOT allow open carry. Thus, under Texas law, it will continue to be illegal to display a firearm inside campus buildings or on campus streets, parking lots, sidewalks, walkways, etc.

**Q: Who developed Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus carry policy?**

**A:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi President Flavius Killebrew appointed a campus carry task force comprised of TAMU-CC students, faculty members, staff members and administrators in fall 2015 to develop recommendations to implement campus carry at TAMU-CC. The task force was led by Dr. Don Albrecht, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success, and Terry Tatum, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration.

**Q: Can a CHL holder carry a handgun anywhere on campus?**

**A:** No. Texas statute identifies seven categories of venues where concealed carry is prohibited. Additionally, a list of locations at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where handguns are prohibited can be found at <http://campuscarry.tamucc.edu/> under the “Campus Carry Rule for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi” link.

**Q: How will we know what areas allow concealed handguns to be carried and where they are permitted?**

**A:** Areas on campus that are “off limits” for concealed carry will be clearly marked with signage, in accordance with Texas Penal Code section 30.06.

**Q: Can individual member of the university community post a sign or notice that prohibits handguns in their offices, classrooms, or other workspaces?**

**A:** No. In accordance with SB 11, only the University President, by policy, can designate areas as exclusion zones. University community members cannot designate their own exclusion zones. The University does not authorize any member of the University community to post their own signs or notices or individually choose an area to post signs or notices.

**Q: How will the law be enforced?**

**A:** The enforcement occurs in two ways. First, the University Police Department will investigate and take appropriate action, including referral for criminal prosecution when violations occur. Second, the University will consider any violation of state law regulating firearms to be a violation of the University rules. Accordingly, such a violation is subject to disciplinary action under rules applicable to students, staff, and faculty.

**Q: What should I do if I see a handgun on campus and feel threatened?**

**A:**  If you see a handgun on campus, it should be reported to the University Police Department so it can be documented and properly investigated. You can reach the University Police Department at 361.825.4242 (for general calls) or 361.825.4444 (for emergencies).

**Q: Can I ask someone with a concealed weapon if he or she has the appropriate permit?**

**A:** Yes. Anyone may ask, but the individual asked is not required to reply unless asked by a police officer.

**Q: How do I keep up to date on campus safety at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi?**

**A:** In adherence to the Clery Act, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi posts annual security reports on the University Police Department website at <http://police.tamucc.edu/>.

**Q: Where can I go to learn more information about the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus carry rule?**

A: Visit the website <http://campuscarry.tamucc.edu/>.

**-A&M-Corpus Christi-**