



Weapons in Public Parks

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: MTAS-268

With certain limited exceptions, it is an offense to possess or carry a weapon on the grounds of any public park or playground in any municipality if the weapon is not used for instruction, display, or sanctioned ceremonial purposes. T.C.A. § 39-17-1311. Handgun carry permit holders may possess or carry handguns in any municipal park or similar public place owned or operated by a municipality, except when in the immediate vicinity of property that is in use by any public or private educational institution conducting an athletic event or other school-related activity on an athletic field. Once a handgun carry permit holder is informed or becomes aware that one or more students are physically present on the property for a school athletic event or any other school-related activity on an athletic field in the immediate vicinity of where the individual is located in the park, the handgun carry permit holder is required to take reasonable steps to leave the area so as to not violate the law. T.C.A. § 39-17-1311.

DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.

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