



McLean County Area EMS System

705 North East Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: (309) 827-4348
Fax: (309) 827-2017

CONCEAL CARRY POLICY

I. PURPOSE:

1. The purpose of this policy is to outline common expected procedures for intervening with patients and/or their families who under the law may be carrying a concealed deadly weapon. The intent is to reduce the potential risk of injury to emergency responders, healthcare personnel and the public. This policy aims to mutually respect the rights of citizens who lawfully carry a concealed weapon as well as to provide safety for emergency responders and healthcare providers.

II. POLICY:

1. The McLean County Area EMS System (MCAEMS) policy is that EMS personnel who have a Conceal Carry Weapon permit shall not knowingly bring any firearm onto any prohibited area.
2. At no time shall open carry ("OC") &/or Conceal Carry Weapon ("CCW") be permitted when on official EMS business, to include, meetings, emergency response, training or any other function of the MCAEMS or on any EMS organizations' properties. The only exception to this is if the EMS provider is a sworn law enforcement officer that is on duty at the time.
3. It is further the policy of MCAEMS that patients and visitors shall not have weapons on their persons while on any and all EMS property which also includes transport and/or non-transport vehicles.

III. APPLICABLE SCENARIOS

- A. Conscious patients willing to relinquish a weapon
- B. Conscious patients unwilling to relinquish a weapon



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- C. Patients with altered levels of consciousness
- D. Family members and/or friends of a patient who have weapons and want to be with the patient in emergency response vehicles
- E. Chain of custody transfer between emergency responders and medical facilities

IV. GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- A. Emergency responders and healthcare personnel should always assume that all firearms are loaded.
- B. Optimally, weapons should be safely secured by the patient at their residence and not be transported with the patient or family/friend in an emergency response vehicle or to a healthcare facility.
- C. Optimally, a patient with a CCW away from their residence should be taken control by local law enforcement. The goal is for the EMS provider to minimally handle any weapon.
- D. All MCAEMS members who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon and doing so at the time of a call should secure their weapon either at home or in their personal vehicle prior to entering the station, entering response equipment or entering a scene.
- E. For EMS personnel with a CCW arriving on scene from home, the weapon must remain secure in their personal vehicle. Privately remove the weapon and place the weapon in the lock box in their personal vehicle. Place the key in a pocket until the weapon has been retrieved after completion of the call.
- F. Patients with an altered level of consciousness, severe pain, or with difficulties in motor control should not be encouraged to disarm themselves. An emergency response or healthcare worker may need to



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obtain control of the weapon for the safety of responding personnel, the public and the patient. Caution should be used at all times when handling a weapon. Emergency response and healthcare workers should not attempt to unload a firearm. Regardless of a person's familiarity with firearms, there is no way to know if the gun is in proper working order.

- G. A public or private hospital, hospital affiliate, hospital parking lot, nursing home or mental health facility is a no carry zone. Other no carry zones include:
1. Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a public or private elementary or secondary school.
 2. Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a pre-school or child care facility, including any room or portion of a building under the control of a pre-school or child care facility.
 3. Any building, parking area, or portion of a building under the control of an officer of the executive or legislative branch of government.
 4. Any building designated for matters before a circuit court, appellate court, control of the Supreme Court.
 5. Any building or portion of a building under the control of a unit of local government.
 6. Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of an adult or juvenile detention or correctional institution, prison, or jail.
 7. Any bus, train, or form of transportation paid for, in whole or in part with public funds, and any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a public transportation facility paid for in whole or in part with public funds.





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8. Bars or other establishments that serve alcohol.
9. Any public gathering or special event conducted on property open to the public that requires the issuance of a permit from the unit of local government.
10. Any public playground.
11. Any public park, athletic area, or athletic facility under the control of a municipality or park ,district.
12. Any building, classroom, laboratory, medical ,clinic, hospital, artistic venue, athletic venue, entertainment venue, officially recognized university-related organization property, whether owned or leased, and any real property, including parking areas, sidewalks, and common areas under the control of a public ,or private community college, college, or university.
13. Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a gaming facility licensed under the Riverboat Gambling Act or the Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975, including an inter-track wagering location licensee.
14. Any stadium, arena, or the real property or parking area under the control of a stadium, arena, or any collegiate or professional sporting event.
15. Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a public library.
16. Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of an airport
17. Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of an amusement park.



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18. Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a zoo or museum.
 19. Any street, driveway, parking area, property, building, or facility, owned, leased, controlled, or used by a nuclear energy, storage, weapons, or development site or facility regulated by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The licensee shall not under any circumstance store a firearm or ammunition in his or her vehicle or in a compartment or container within a vehicle located anywhere in or on the street, driveway, parking area, property, building, or facility described in this paragraph.
 20. Any area where firearms are prohibited under federal law.
- H. EMS agencies are encouraged to designate themselves as a weapons-free facility. No-carry signage should be clearly posted in emergency squads and EMS facilities. Law enforcement shall be called if patients insist on carrying weapons in emergency vehicles or in hospitals that have declared themselves as no-carry zones.
- I. Under no circumstances should an emergency responder or healthcare worker compromise his/her safety in regards to these guidelines. When in doubt about a patient with a weapon or the weapon itself, emergency responders and healthcare personnel should contact local law enforcement. Law enforcement officers will make the decisions regarding disarming the patient and the weapon.
1. **NOTE:** *Do not ask the patient whether he/she has the right to carry a weapon. If the person has no legal right, they may become alarmed and cause EMS personnel harm.*
 2. All weapons are removed from the patient. The only exception is a conscious and alert law enforcement officer. No EMS personnel shall provide medical care to an armed person.



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V. Conscious Patient Willing to Relinquish a Weapon

- A. Patients who are alert and oriented and for whom the emergency response is occurring at their place of residence should be asked to leave their weapons in a secure location at home prior to transport. Patients should be told that EMS vehicles are no carry zones.
- B. Patients for whom the emergency response is occurring away from their residence may relinquish their weapon to a law enforcement officer on scene if one is available.
- C. If a patient is not at their residence or if a law enforcement officer is not available, emergency response personnel should do the following:
 1. Place weapon into the "Lock Box."
 2. Secure the Lock Box with a numbered security seal and place the Box in a locked exterior vehicle compartment for transport.
 3. Complete and have the patient sign the Chain of Custody Form (Attachment A).
 4. Conduct a thorough secondary survey.
 5. If additional weapons are found, begin again at step (1). If no additional weapons are found, load the patient into the vehicle and transport to an appropriate medical facility.
 6. While en route, emergency response personnel shall notify the receiving facility that a Lock Box weapon is being transported with the patient.
 7. The medical facility security personnel or local law enforcement (if the hospital does not have security staff) shall meet the transport vehicle at the medical facility doors to take control of the weapon.





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Emergency response personnel shall hand over the Lock Box with numbered locks in place.

8. Medical facility and emergency response personnel shall document the transaction on the *Chain of Custody Form*.
9. Medical facility personnel shall give an empty replacement box to the emergency responders.

VI. Conscious Patient Unwilling to Relinquish a Weapon

- A. Emergency responders should engage alert and oriented patients in calm discussion about the rationale to secure the weapon prior to transport. Simple explanations can be given including that these regional guidelines are in place.
- B. If the patient continues to refuse to relinquish the weapon, emergency responders should refrain from continuing the assessment and from transporting to a medical facility.
- C. EMS Providers should be suspicious of ill or injured patients unwilling to relinquish weapons.
- D. Law enforcement shall be called to intervene in the situation.
- E. If the situation becomes threatening, emergency responders should evacuate the scene to a secure rendezvous point a safe distance away and notify law enforcement.

VII. Patients with Altered Levels of Consciousness

- A. Emergency responders must use extreme caution when approaching patients with altered levels of consciousness.
- B. If a weapon is found on an awake patient with an altered level of consciousness, emergency responders should not attempt to have the patient hand over the weapon. EMS personnel should not attempt to



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remove a weapon from a patient whose level of consciousness could precipitate use of that weapon against them. Law enforcement should be called to assist in disarming these patients. If a weapon is removed by a law enforcement officer, the officer will maintain possession of the weapon.

- C. If the patient is unconscious and requires emergent care but law enforcement is not on the scene, emergency medical services (EMS) personnel will need to carefully separate the weapon from the patient prior to transport. **Optimally a firearm should be removed from the patient while still in the holster.** If removing the holster and weapon together jeopardizes the safety of the patient or emergency response personnel, or it is physically impossible to remove the holster and firearm together, the weapon may be removed without the holster. Once removed, emergency response personnel shall:
1. Handle all weapons carefully as they will most likely be loaded and may not have an engaged safety.
 2. Place the weapon or weapon-in-the-holster into the Lock Box.
 3. Secure the Lock Box with a numbered security seal and place the Box in the locked exterior vehicle compartment for transport.
 4. Complete the *Chain of Custody Form*.
 5. Conduct a thorough secondary survey.
 6. If additional weapons are found and removed, begin again at step (1). If no additional weapons are found, load the patient into the vehicle and transport to an appropriate medical facility.
 7. While en route, emergency response personnel shall notify the receiving facility that a Lock Box weapon is being transported with the patient.



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8. The medical facility security personnel or local law enforcement (if the hospital does not have security staff) shall meet the transport vehicle at the medical facility doors to take control of the weapon. Emergency response personnel shall hand over the Lock Box with numbered locks in place.
9. Medical facility and emergency response personnel shall document the transaction on the *Chain of Custody Form*.
10. Medical Facility personnel shall give an empty replacement box to the emergency responders.

VIII. Family members and friends who have weapons and want to be with patients in emergency response vehicles.

- A. The decision to transport family members and/or friends with the patient solely rests with existing policies of individual emergency response agencies.
- B. Agencies that permit transport of family/friends with the patient shall:
 1. Ask the family member/friend to declare if they have a concealed weapon.
 2. Explain that no unsecured weapons may be transported in the emergency vehicle.
- C. If a family member/friend discloses a concealed weapon AND the patient's condition is such that the emergency medical personnel deem it in the best interest of the patient to transport the family member/friend with them:
 1. The family member/friend should be instructed to leave the weapon in a secure place at the home. If the family member/friend refuses, emergency response personnel have the prerogative to decline transport of the family member/friend with the patient. No



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family member/friend should be transported with an unsecured weapon.

- D. If the scene is not at the family member's/friend's residence, or circumstances prevent the weapon from being secured in the home:
1. Have the family member/friend place the weapon into the "Lock Box."
 2. Secure the Lock Box with a numbered security seal and place the Box in a locked exterior vehicle compartment for transport.
 3. Complete and have the family member/friend sign the Chain of Custody Form (Attachment A).
 4. If additional weapons are discovered, begin again at step (1). If no additional weapons are discovered, load the patient into the vehicle and transport to an appropriate medical facility.
 5. While en route, emergency response personnel shall notify the receiving facility that a Lock Box weapon is being transported with the patient.
 6. The medical facility security personnel or local law enforcement (if the hospital does not have security staff) shall meet the transport vehicle at the medical facility doors to take control of the weapon. Emergency response personnel shall hand over the Lock Box with numbered locks in place.
 7. Medical facility and emergency response personnel shall document the transaction on the *Chain of Custody Form*.
 8. Medical facility personnel shall give an empty replacement box to the emergency responders.



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IX. Patients Transported via Emergency Responders to a Medical Facility

- A. EMS should make every attempt to screen all patients for concealed weapons prior to transport to a medical facility.
- B. Patients with concealed weapons that could not be secured at their residence may have had them placed in a Lock Box by emergency personnel. In the absence of an established community protocol whereby the local law enforcement agency of the emergency responders meets the transport vehicle at the medical facility to assume control of the weapon, medical facilities may need to assume control when the patient is delivered.
- C. While en route, emergency response personnel shall notify the receiving facility that a weapon is being transported in a Lock Box with the patient.
- D. Facility security personnel shall meet the transport vehicle at the doors to take control of the weapon. Emergency response personnel shall hand over the Lock Box with coded snap locks in place.
- E. Medical facility and emergency response personnel shall document the transaction on the Chain of Custody Form.
- F. Facility security personnel shall give an empty replacement box to the emergency responders.

X. LOCK BOX

- A. A System-wide exchange program is established under these guidelines such that all emergency response agencies and healthcare facilities participating shall purchase similar safety boxes to secure deadly weapons. The recommended new box is manufactured by Flambeau. The box name is the "Flambeau Safe Shot Pistol Gun Case, 14-inch Polymer Black," product number 682841 (Attachment B).





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- B. Each participating agency shall procure their own boxes. Each agency shall draw/paint a gun template with indelible medium on the outside of the Lock Boxes to indicate the direction of the barrel of a stored firearm. A gun template is attached with these guidelines (Attachment C).
- C. These Lock Boxes shall be secured with a numbered security seal to document a chain of evidence. Emergency response agencies and healthcare facilities shall procure their own locks. Each Lock Box shall have an outside label indicating "CAUTION: DEADLY WEAPON (Attachment D)."
- D. Lock Boxes containing weapons must be stored in a secure, locked storage compartment or cabinet by emergency response agencies and healthcare facilities. The Lock Boxes will be exchanged at the interface of emergency responders and healthcare facilities when patients are delivered who had a weapon that could not be left at their residence.
- E. Emergency response personnel shall hand-over a Lock Box secured with coded snap locks to a healthcare facility security officer. In exchange the healthcare security officer will provide an empty box back to the emergency responder. The intent is to minimize the handling of potentially dangerous weapons by emergency response and healthcare facility staff. Additionally, at the discretion of the emergency response agency, a family member/friend may be transported with the patient. If the family member/friend has a weapon and is transferred, the family member's/friend's weapon must also be secured and given to a healthcare facility's security staff by emergency response personnel. As above, the healthcare facility security officer and emergency responder shall exchange the Lock Box with the weapon for an empty Lock Box.

XI. ACTIVITIES WHICH SHALL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE LICENSURE SUSPENSION

- A. Attempting to engage a "safety" or undoing a "safety" on a handgun, stun gun or pepper spray.



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- B. Treating a gun as if it were not loaded.
- C. Unloading a gun.
- D. Failure to place weapon in lock box.
- E. Showing off a weapon or flashing a weapon
- F. Making remarks about violence with a weapon.
- G. Bringing a weapon into a prohibited area while on duty.



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ATTACHMENT "B"

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Flambeau Safe Shot Pistol Gun Case 14" Polymer Black

Technical Information

Material : Hard Plastic

External Dimensions: 14" Long X 11" Wide X 3-1/4" High

Weight: 1.45 Pounds

Number of Firearms: 1 Handgun

Type of Lock: Sliding, Lockable Latches

FAA Approved: No

Notes:

- Full Egg-Shell Foam Padding
- Cases are stackable
- Based on inside dimensions, this case will hold one handgun up to a 7" grip length and 12" overall length including barrel



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ATTACHMENT "C"

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ATTACHMENT "D"



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