



STAFFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

2702 South Main Street
Stafford, Texas 77477-5599
PHONE: (281) 261-3950
FAX: (281) 499-9744

Business owner,

Hello, and thank you for your inquiry about the new Open-Carry laws in relation to your business. Due to recent legislative updates for 2015-2017, please be aware of the following when considering the new “open carry” laws for the State of Texas;

Beginning January 1, 2016, House Bill 910 deletes “concealed” from Concealed Handgun License (CHL) and becomes “License to Carry”, allowing license holders to carry a handgun either concealed or openly in a belt or shoulder holster. The language in the required signage providing notice that concealed carrying is not allowed has been changed. To avoid legal ramifications, business owners must post the new proper signage regarding their policies on License to Carry. Any old signs will not apply and must be discarded.

Since the license holder now has two (2) options on how the weapon can be carried, there must be two (2) separate signs posted. One sign in English and Spanish notifying a weapon cannot be carried concealed and one sign in English and Spanish notifying the weapon cannot be openly carried on the property. However, the business has the option of only posting one sign or both at the same time, depending on what the owner is trying to accomplish.

As examples:

- 1) Owners may feel comfortable with customers carrying firearms as long as they are concealed and are not carried where other customers can see them. In this instance the owner would post the sign advising open carry is prohibited.
- 2) Owners may feel comfortable when customers carried weapons as long as they could be seen and knew who was carrying them. In this instance the owner would post a sign advising concealed carry is prohibited.
- 3) Owners may not want any weapons on their property and would then post both signs notifying open carry and concealed carry are prohibited.



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The signs must include the *exact* language below in **both English and Spanish**, be printed in contrasting colors with block letters *at least one inch in height*, and be displayed *in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public*. The two (2) signs must read;



“PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN”.

AND



“PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY”.

This is the position of the Stafford Police Department. You may like to confirm this information through your local prosecutor at Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office. For more information from them, contact their main line at (281) 341-4460. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.