

# **HCEC WEAPONS POLICY**

## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to promote a safe environment for students, staff and the public.

## **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

No student or non-student, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon at HCEC during classes or events, except as provided in this policy.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

### **A. "Weapon"**

1. A "weapon" means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air-guns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; nun-chucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun-guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.
2. No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; air-soft guns and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
3. No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., lasers or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and/or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

B. "HCEC classes and events" includes the entire church building or grounds, the area of entrance or departure from church premises or HCEC events, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of the HCEC Program.

C. "Possession" means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in any HCEC location or HCEC event location.

## **IV. EXCEPTIONS**

A. A student who finds a weapon during HCEC classes or events, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the HCEC Administrator's office or New Life Staff shall not be considered to possess a weapon. If it would be impractical or dangerous to take the weapon to the HCEC Administrator's office, a student shall not be considered to possess a weapon if he or she immediately turns the weapon over to an administrator, teacher or New Life Staff Member or immediately notifies an administrator, teacher or New Life Staff Member of the weapon's location.

B. It shall not be a violation of this policy if a non-student falls within one of the following categories:

1. Licensed peace officers, properly licensed New Life Church Life Safety personnel, who are on duty performing official duties; may openly carry or bear concealed firearms.
2. Persons authorized to carry a pistol under Colorado C.R.S. 18-12-105, while in a motor vehicle or outside of a motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle;
3. Persons authorized to carry a concealed weapon under Colorado C.R.S. 18-12-203;
4. A gun or knife show held during HCEC classes or events, with prior permission;

### **C. Policy Application to Instructional Equipment/Tools**

While HCEC takes a firm position on the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students and non-students, such a position is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools in the classroom. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use or distribution of weapons. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner, such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION**

A. HCEC will not tolerate the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students or non-students. Consequently, at the sole discretion of the Administrator and Board, the minimum consequence for such behavior shall include, but not limited to:

1. Immediate suspension from HCEC classes and events;
2. Confiscation of the weapon;
3. Immediate notification of police;
4. Parent or guardian notification; and if determined necessary
5. Dismissal for a period of time not to exceed one year.

Any student who brings a firearm to HCEC or events will be expelled for at least one year and may be subject to other criminal charges.

### **B. Administrative Discretion**

In consideration of unusual or unique circumstances, specified or otherwise, a course of action other than the minimum consequences may be warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

## **V. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY NONSTUDENTS**

### **A. Employees**

1. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the HCEC Board and New Life Church.
2. Sanctions against employees, including, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, and HCEC and New Life Church policies.
3. When an employee violates the weapons policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.

### **B. Other Nonstudents**

1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the HCEC class location or event. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to HCEC class locations or events.
2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from HCEC classes or event.

Updated 08/09