

CHAPTER 137: WEAPONS

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Statutory reference:

Firearms and ammunition registration, ILCS Ch. 430, Act 65, §§ 0.01 through 16.3
Boarding aircraft with weapons, ILCS Ch. 720, Act 545, §§ 0.01 through 7

DEADLY WEAPONS

§ 137.01 UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPONS.

(A) No person shall knowingly:

(1) Sell, manufacture, purchase, possess, or carry any bludgeon, black-jack, slung-shot, sand-club, sand-bag, metal knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, throwing star, or any knife, commonly referred to as a switch-blade knife, which has a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife; or a ballistic knife, which is a device that propels a knifelike blade as a projectile by means of a coil spring, elastic material or compressed gas, but which shall not be deemed to include crossbows, common or compound bows and/or underwater spearguns in accordance with ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, § 24-1(e);

(2) Carry or possess with intent to use the same unlawfully against another, a dagger, dirk, billy, dangerous knife, razor, stiletto, broken bottle or other piece of glass, stun gun or taser, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument of like character;

(3) Carry on or about his/her person or in any vehicle, a tear gas gun projector or bomb or any object containing noxious liquid gas or substance, other than an object containing a non-lethal noxious liquid gas or substance designed solely for personal defense carried by a person 18 years of age or older;

(4) Carry or possess in any vehicle or concealed on or about his/her person except when on his/her land or in his/her own abode or fixed place of business any pistol, revolver, stun gun or taser or other firearm, except that this division (4) does not apply to or affect transportation of weapons that meet one of the following conditions:

(a) Are broken down in a non-functioning state;

(b) Are not immediately accessible; or

(c) Are unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container by a person who has been issued a currently valid Firearm Owner's Identification Card;

(5) Set a spring gun;

(6) Carry or possess any firearm, stun gun or taser or other deadly weapon in any place which is licensed to sell intoxicating beverages, or at any public gathering held pursuant to a license issued by any governmental body or any public gathering at which an admission is charged, excluding a place where a showing, demonstration, or lecture involving the exhibition of unloaded firearms is conducted. This division (A)(6) does not apply to any auction or raffle of a firearm held pursuant to a license or permit issued by a governmental body, nor does it apply to persons engaged in firearm safety training courses;

(7) Carry or possess on or about his or her person, upon any public street, alley, or other public lands within the corporate limits of the village, except when an invitee thereon or therein, for the purpose of the display of such weapon or the lawful commerce in weapons, or except when on his or her land or in his or her own abode or fixed place of business, any pistol, revolver, stun gun or taser or other firearm, except that this division (7) does not apply to or affect transportation of weapons that meet one of the following conditions:

(a) Are broken down in a non-functioning state;

(b) Are not immediately accessible; or

(c) Are unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container by a person who has been issued a currently valid Firearm Owner's Identification Card.

(8) Sell, manufacture, or purchase any explosive bullet. **EXPLOSIVE BULLET** shall mean the projectile portion of an ammunition cartridge which contains or carries an explosive charge which will explode upon contact with the flesh of a human or an animal. **CARTRIDGE** means a tubular metal case having a projectile affixed at the front thereof and a cap or primer at the rear end thereof, with the propellant contained in the tube between the projectile and the cap.

(9) Carries or possesses on or about his or her person while in a building occupied by a unit of government, a billy club, other weapon of like character, or other instrument of like character intended for use as a weapon. For the purposes of this section, **BILLY CLUB** means a short stick or club commonly carried by police officers which is either telescopic or constructed of a solid piece of wood or other man-made material.

(B) A **STUN GUN** or **TASER**, as used in division (A), means:

(1) Any device which is powered by electrical charging units, such as batteries, and which fires one or several barbs attached to a length of wire and which, upon hitting a human, can send out a current capable of disrupting the person's nervous system in such a manner as to render him/her incapable of normal functioning; or

(2) Any device which is powered by electrical charging units, such as batteries, and which, upon contact with a human or clothing worn by a human, can send out a current capable of disrupting the person's nervous system in such a manner as to render him/her incapable of normal functioning.

(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, § 24-1(a)) Penalty, see § 130.99

Statutory reference:

For provisions concerning silencers on guns; machine guns; possession of weapon while hooded, robed and/or masked; or possession of weapons on school or university grounds (all of which are felonies), see ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, §§ 24-1(a)(6), (7), and (9) and § 24-1(c)(2) respectively

§ 137.02 EXEMPTIONS.

(A) Section 137.01(A)(3), (A)(4) and (A)(7) do not apply to or affect any of the following:

(1) Peace officers, and any person summoned by a peace officer to assist in making arrests or preserving the peace, while actually engaged in assisting such officer.

(2) Wardens, superintendents and keepers of prisons, penitentiaries, jails and other institutions for the detention of persons accused or convicted of an offense, while in the performance of their official duty, or while commuting between their homes and places of employment.

(3) Members of the Armed Services or Reserve Forces of the United States or the Illinois National Guard or the Reserve Officers Training Corps, while in the performance of their official duty.

(4) Special agents employed by a railroad or a public utility to perform police functions, and guards of armored car companies, while actually engaged in the performance of the duties of

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employment or commuting between their homes and places of employment; and watchmen while actually engaged in the performance of the duties of their employment.

(5) Persons licensed as private security contractors, private detectives, or private alarm contractors, or employed by an agency certified by the Department of Professional Regulation, if their duties include the carrying of a weapon under the provisions of the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004, ILCS Ch. 225, Act 447, §§ 5-5 *et seq.*, while actually engaged in the performance of the duties of their employment or commuting between their homes and places of employment, provided that such commuting is accomplished within one hour from departure from home or place of employment, as the case may be. Persons exempted under this division (A)(5) shall be required to have completed a course of study in firearms handling and training approved and supervised by the Department of Professional Regulation as prescribed by Section 28 of the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004, ILCS Ch. 225, Act 447, §§ 5-5 *et seq.*, prior to becoming eligible for this exemption. The Department of Professional Regulation shall provide suitable documentation demonstrating the successful completion of the prescribed firearms training. Such documentation shall be carried at all times when such persons are in possession of a concealable weapon.

(6) Any person regularly employed in a commercial or industrial operation as a security guard for the protection of persons employed and private property related to such commercial or industrial operation, while actually engaged in the performance of his or her duty or traveling between sites or properties belonging to the employer, and who, as a security guard, is a member of a security force of at least five persons registered with the Department of Professional Regulation; provided that such security guard has successfully completed a course of study, approved by and supervised by the Department of Professional Regulation, consisting of not less than 40 hours of training that includes the theory of law enforcement, liability for acts, and the handling of weapons. A person shall be considered eligible for this exemption if he or she has completed the required 20 hours of training for a security officer and 20 hours of required firearm training, and has been issued a firearm control card by the Department of Professional Regulation. Conditions for the renewal of firearm control cards issued under the provisions of this section shall be the same as for those cards issued under the provisions of the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004, ILCS Ch. 225, Act 447, §§ 5-5 *et seq.* Such firearm control card shall be carried by the security guard at all times when he or she is in possession of a concealable weapon.

(7) Agents and investigators of the Illinois Legislative Investigating Commission authorized by the Commission to carry the weapons specified in § 137.01(A)(3) and (A)(4), while on duty in the course of any investigation for the Commission.

(8) Persons employed by a financial institution for the protection of other employees and property related to such financial institution, while actually engaged in the performance of their duties, commuting between their homes and places of employment, or traveling between sites or properties owned or operated by such financial institution, provided that any person so employed has successfully completed a course of study, approved by and supervised by the Department of Professional Regulation, consisting of not less than 40 hours of training which includes theory of law enforcement, liability for

acts, and the handling of weapons. A person shall be considered to be eligible for this exemption if he or she has completed the required 20 hours of training for a security officer and 20 hours of required firearm training, and has been issued a firearm control card by the Department of Professional Regulation. Conditions for renewal of firearm control cards issued under the provisions of this section shall be the same as for those issued under the provisions of the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004, ILCS Ch. 225, Act 447, §§ 5-5 *et seq.* Such firearm control card shall be carried by the person so trained at all times when such person is in possession of a concealable weapon. For purposes of this division, **FINANCIAL INSTITUTION** means a bank, savings and loan association, credit union or company providing armored car services.

(9) Any person employed by an armored car company to drive an armored car, while actually engaged in the performance of his duties.

(10) Persons who have been classified as peace officers pursuant to the Peace Officer Fire Investigation Act, ILCS Ch. 20, Act 2910, §§ 0.01 *et seq.*

(11) Investigators of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor authorized by the board of governors of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor to carry weapons pursuant to the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Act, ILCS Ch. 725, Act 210, §§ 1 *et seq.*

(12) Special investigators appointed by a State's Attorney under ILCS Ch. 55, Act 5, § 3-9005.

(13) Probation officers while in the performance of their duties, or while commuting between their homes, places of employment or specific locations that are part of their assigned duties, with the consent of the chief judge of the circuit for which they are employed.

(14) Court Security Officers while in the performance of their official duties, or while commuting between their homes and places of employment, with the consent of the Sheriff.

(15) A person employed as an armed security guard at a nuclear energy, storage, weapons or development site or facility regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission who has completed the background screening and training mandated by the rules and regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

(16) Manufacture, transportation, or sale of weapons to persons authorized under divisions (A)(1) through (15) of this section to possess those weapons.

(B) Section 137.01(A)(4) and (A)(7) do not apply to or affect any of the following:

(1) Members of any club or organization organized for the purpose of practicing shooting at targets upon established target ranges, whether public or private, and patrons of such ranges, while such members or patrons are using their firearms on those target ranges.

(2) Duly authorized military or civil organizations while parading, with the special permission of the Governor.

(3) Hunters, trappers or fishermen with a license or permit while engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing.

(4) Transportation of weapons that are broken down in a non-functioning state or are not immediately accessible.

(C) Section 137.01(A)(1) does not apply to the purchase, possession or carrying of a black-jack or slung-shot by a peace officer.

(D) Section 137.01(A)(6) does not apply to any owner, manager or authorized employee of any place specified in that division nor to any law enforcement officer.

(E) Section 137.01(A)(4) and (A)(7) do not apply to members of any club or organization organized for the purpose of practicing shooting at targets upon established target ranges, whether public or private, while using their firearms on those target ranges.

(F) Section 137.01(A)(8) does not apply to:

(1) Members of the Armed Services or Reserve Forces of the United States or the Illinois National Guard, while in the performance of their official duty.

(2) Bonafide collectors of antique or surplus military ordinance.

(3) Laboratories having a department of forensic ballistics, or specializing in the development of ammunition or explosive ordinance.

(4) Commerce, preparation, assembly or possession of explosive bullets by manufacturers of ammunition licensed by the federal government, in connection with the supply of those organizations and persons exempted by division (G)(1) of this section, or like organizations and persons outside this state, or the transportation of explosive bullets to any organization or person exempted in this section by a common carrier or by a vehicle owned or leased by an exempted manufacturer.

(G) Section 137.01(A)(4), (A)(6), and (A)(7) do not apply to an athlete's possession, transport on official Olympic and Paralympic transit systems established for athletes, or use of competition firearms sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the International Shooting Sport Federation, or USA Shooting in connection with such athlete's training for and participation in shooting competitions at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and sanctioned test events leading up to the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

(H) An information or indictment based upon a violation of any division of this section need not negative any exemptions contained in this section. The defendant shall have the burden of proving such an exemption.

(I) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, apply to, or affect the transportation, carrying, or possession, of any pistol or revolver, stun gun, taser, or other firearm consigned to a common carrier

operating under license of the state or the federal government, where such transportation, carrying, or possession is incident to the lawful transportation in which such common carrier is engaged; and nothing in this section shall prohibit, apply to, or affect the transportation, carrying, or possession of any pistol, revolver, stun gun, taser, or other firearm, not the subject of and regulated by ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, § 24-1(a)(7) or ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, § 24-2(c), which is unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container, by the possessor of a valid Firearm Owners Identification Card.

(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, § 24-2)

§ 137.03 UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND FIREARM AMMUNITION.

(A) A person commits the offense of unlawful possession of firearms or firearm ammunition when:

(1) He or she is under 18 years of age and has in his or her possession any firearm of a size which may be concealed upon the person;

(2) He or she is under 21 years of age, has been convicted of a misdemeanor other than a traffic offense or adjudged delinquent and has any firearms or firearm ammunition in his or her possession;

(3) He or she is a narcotic addict and has any firearms or firearm ammunition in his or her possession;

(4) He or she has been a patient in a mental hospital within the past five years and has any firearms or firearm ammunition in his or her possession;

(5) He or she is mentally retarded and has any firearms or firearm ammunition in his or her possession; or

(6) He or she has in his or her possession any explosive bullet. For purposes of this paragraph **EXPLOSIVE BULLET** means the projectile portion of an ammunition cartridge which contains or carries an explosive charge which will explode upon contact with the flesh of a human or an animal. **CARTRIDGE** means a tubular metal case having a projectile affixed at the front thereof and a cap or primer at the rear end thereof, with the propellant contained in such tube between the projectile and the cap.

(B) *Sentence.* Unlawful possession of firearms, other than handguns, and firearm ammunition is a Class A misdemeanor. Unlawful possession of handguns is a Class 4 felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law. The possession of each firearm or firearm ammunition in violation of this section constitutes a single and separate violation.

(C) Nothing in division (A)(1) of this section prohibits a person under 18 years of age from participating in any lawful recreational activity with a firearm such as, but not limited to, practice

shooting at targets upon established public or private target ranges or hunting, trapping, or fishing in accordance with the Wildlife Code or the Fish and Aquatic Life Code.
(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, § 24-3.1) Penalty, see § 130.99

§ 137.04 CONFISCATION AND DISPOSITION OF WEAPONS.

Upon conviction of an offense in which a weapon was used or possessed by the offender, any weapon seized may be confiscated by the trial court for further disposition consistent with state law.
(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 5, § 24-6)

AIR RIFLES

§ 137.10 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of §§ 137.10 *et seq.*, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings ascribed to them respectively.

AIR RIFLE. Any air gun, air pistol, spring gun, spring pistol, B.B. gun, pellet gun, or any implement that is not a firearm, which impels a pellet constructed of hard plastic, steel, lead, or other hard materials with a force that reasonably is expected to cause bodily harm.

DEALER. Any person, copartnership, association, or corporation engaged in the business of selling at retail or renting any of the articles included in the definition of ***AIR RIFLE.***
(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 1)

§ 137.11 SELLING, RENTING, OR TRANSFERRING TO CHILDREN; PROHIBITION.

(A) It is unlawful for any dealer to sell, lend, rent, give, or otherwise transfer an air rifle to any person under the age of 13 years where the dealer knows or has cause to believe the person to be under 13 years of age or where the dealer has failed to make reasonable inquiry relative to the age of the person and the person is under 13 years of age.

(B) It is unlawful for any person to sell, give, lend, or otherwise transfer any air rifle to any person under 13 years of age except where the relationship of parent and child, guardian and ward, or adult instructor and pupil exists between the person and the person under 13 years of age, or where the person stands in loco parentis to the person under 13 years of age.
(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 2) Penalty, see § 130.99

§ 137.12 CARRYING OR DISCHARGING ON PUBLIC STREETS.

(A) It is unlawful for any person under 13 years of age to carry any air rifle on the public streets, roads, highways, or public lands within this village, unless the person under 13 years of age carries the rifle unloaded.

(B) It is unlawful for any person to discharge any air rifle from or across any street, sidewalk, road, highway, or public land or any public place except on a safely constructed target range. (ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 3)

(C) Any person convicted of violating this section shall pay a fine not to exceed \$50. (ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 7)

§ 137.13 PERMISSIVE POSSESSION.

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, it is lawful for any person under 13 years of age to have in his/her possession any air rifle if it is:

(A) Kept within his/her house of residence or other private enclosure;

(B) Used by the person under 13 years of age and he/she is a duly enrolled member of any club, team, or society organized for educational purposes and maintaining as part of its facilities or having written permission to use an indoor or outdoor rifle range under the supervision, guidance and instruction of a responsible adult, and then only if the air rifle is actually being used in connection with the activities of the club, team, or society under the supervision of a responsible adult; or

(C) Used in or on any private grounds or residence under circumstances when the air rifle is fired, discharged, or operated in a manner as not to endanger persons or property and then only if it is used in a manner as to prevent the projectile from passing over any grounds or space outside the limits of such grounds or residence.

(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 4)

§ 137.14 PERMISSIVE SALES.

The provisions of §§ 137.10 through 137.14 do not prohibit sales of air rifles:

(A) By wholesale dealers or jobbers;

(B) To be shipped out of the state;

(C) To be used at a target range operated in accordance with ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 4 or by members of the Armed Services of the United States or veterans' organizations. (ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 5)

§ 137.15 SEIZURE AND REMOVAL.

Any police officer shall seize, take, remove, or cause to be removed at the expense of the owner, any air rifle sold or used in any manner in violation of this chapter.
(ILCS Ch. 720, Act 535, § 6)