

Guns / Weapons and Houses of Worship

Role Based Criteria

- Staff
 - In the Office
 - Working Services / Events
- Volunteers
 - Sanctuary
 - Kids
 - Other
- Clients / Customers / Attendees / Congregants
- School / Daycare Division
- Suppliers / Vendors
- Security / Safety Team
 - Security Team
 - Safety Team
 - Medical Team

Licensed

- Organization is Licensed
- Outsourced Supplier is Licensed

Organization

- Insurance
 - Covered?
 - Not Covered?
- Local Bylaws
- Denomination Rules
- Local Rules/Policies

Laws / Regulations

- Federal Law
 - HR 218 must NOT be Used
- State Law
- Local Law
- No Concealed Carry Sign
 - "Dollar Store"
 - Official Version
- No Open Carry Sign
 - "Dollar Store"
 - Official Version

Individual (regardless of their role)

- Organization's Authority Over Training
 - Military Only
 - Medical Response
 - CHL Only
 - LEO Recurring
 - Guard Card Recurring
 - Organization "Sponsored" Range Time
- Background
 - LEO
 - Military
 - Active
 - Reserve
 - Inactive
- Licensed
 - CHL
 - Guard Card - Uniformed - Open Carry
 - Guard Card - Plain Clothes Open Carry
 - Guard Card - Plain Clothes - Conceal Carry

Carry Method

- Open Carry
- Concealed Carry
- Plain Clothes
- Uniformed
- Plain Clothes with Sash
- LEO Uniformed Only
- LEO Plain Clothes Only

Threat

- Intel Based
- No Direct Threat Required
- Expiration of a Threat

Other Risk

- Comfort Level
- "Feel Safe"

Event

- Day-to-Day
- Campus services / events
- Community Events
- Missions Trips
- High Concern Individual Movement

(Bad) Assumptions

- No one is carrying
- No Signage
- With "No Carry" signage
- Searching
 - All at the door
 - BTAM Based Searching

Compliance / Enforcement

- Confronting a violator
- (Random) Searches
- Metal / weapons detection technology

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Some Core Definitions I use:

Security: The prevention, detection, and response to a crime or a violation of an organization's rules/policies.

Safety: The prevention, detection, and response to an accident. (think spilled milk, broken glass, etc.)

Safe: The FEELING by an individual, in an environment, where they feel the security and safety controls are adequate for them to be at peace to enter/enjoy/use the environment.

I am NOT a lawyer or insurance pro.

This is a **SAMPLE** of the criteria a House of Worship should consider when setting policies around Guns (and other weapons) and the organization's path forward in this sensitive policy discussion.

In addition to wise counsel, legal counsel, and insurance, please engage strong, trained, and certified House of Worship security professionals before making final decisions.