

**FALL RIVER HOUSING AUTHORITY
WEAPONS POLICY**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to promote the safety and security of all residents, visitors, and staff of the Fall River Housing Authority (“FRHA”) by strictly regulating the possession, storage, and use of weapons on FRHA property.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 269, § 10 and Chapter 140, § 131L, the following provisions shall apply to all tenants, household members, and visitors on FRHA property.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1. Weapon: For the purposes of this policy, “weapon” shall include, but is not limited to, any firearm, rifle, shotgun, ammunition, explosive or incendiary device, or any other item defined as a weapon under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 269, § 10.
- 3.2. FRHA Property: All buildings, grounds, parking areas, and other real property owned, leased, or operated by FRHA.

4. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- 4.1. FRHA shall not enter into a lease agreement with any prospective tenant, and shall immediately terminate, without grievance hearing, the lease agreement of any existing tenant, who:
- 4.2. Unlawfully possesses, carries, or keeps a weapon of any kind on or adjacent to FRHA property;
- 4.3. Unlawfully possesses or uses an explosive or incendiary device on or adjacent to FRHA property;
- 4.4. Fails to store or keep a firearm, rifle, or shotgun in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, § 131L;
- 4.5. Carries or controls a loaded firearm while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, marijuana, narcotic drugs, depressants, stimulant substances, or vapors of glue;
- 4.6. Engages in any criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents, property management staff, or individuals residing in the immediate vicinity of FRHA property.
- 4.7. In this section, the term “adjacent to” can be defined as “next to”, “immediately bordering”, or “as close enough to be considered part of or directly connected with” (the property).

5. REPORTING VIOLATIONS

All tenants and residents are encouraged to report any suspected violations of this policy to the FRHA Management Office and/or the Fall River Police Department.

6. TENANT OBLIGATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 6.1. Failure of a prospective tenant to sign this acknowledgment shall result in denial of the lease application.
- 6.2. Failure of a current tenant to comply with all terms and conditions of this policy shall result in termination of the lease agreement.
- 6.3. As a current or prospective tenant of the Fall River Housing Authority,
 - a) I hereby acknowledge, understand, and agree that FRHA will not enter into a lease agreement, and will immediately terminate any existing lease agreement, for failure to comply with any of the provisions set forth above. _____ (Initial)
 - b) I further acknowledge, understand, and agree that I am required to provide FRHA with copies of all unexpired permits for any weapons lawfully possessed or stored on FRHA property. _____ (Initial)
 - c) I acknowledge, understand, and agree that FRHA may provide a list of units in which weapons are lawfully stored to the local police and fire departments. _____ (Initial)
 - d) I acknowledge, understand, and agree to notify FRHA of any changes in adult occupancy of my unit, and understand that such changes may impact this and other FRHA policies and legal documents. _____ (Initial)

Tenant Signature: _____

Date: _____

FRHA Representative: _____

Date: _____

**WEAPONS POLICY – APPENDIX
SUMMARY OF RELEVANT MASSACHUSETTS STATUTES**

FRHA Disclaimer: The foregoing is provided for informational purposes only. Tenants are responsible for complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding weapons possession, storage, and use. For the full text of these statutes, consult the Massachusetts General Laws.

❖ **M.G.L. Ch. 269, §10 - Carrying and Possession of Weapons**

- Prohibits unlawful carrying of firearms, rifles, shotguns, and certain other weapons without the appropriate license or permit.
- Defines “weapon” broadly to include firearms, knives, clubs, and other dangerous items.
- Specifies penalties for unlawful possession, carrying, or use of weapons on public or private property.
- Prohibits carrying a loaded firearm while under the influence of intoxicating substances.

❖ **M.G.L. Ch. 140, §131 (L) – Safe Storage of Firearms**

- Requires all firearms, rifles, and shotguns to be stored in a locked container or equipped with a tamper-resistant safety device when not in the immediate possession of the owner.
- Imposes penalties for failure to comply with safe storage requirements.
- Applies to all persons lawfully possessing firearms, including tenants in public housing.

❖ **M.G.L. Ch. 266, §102(A) – Explosives and Incendiary Devices**

- Prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or placement of explosive or incendiary devices.
- Specifies criminal penalties for violations.

❖ **M.G.L. Ch. 186, §15B – Lease Termination for Criminal Activity**

- Allows for immediate termination of a lease agreement if a tenant engages in criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or staff.