

**CHAPTER 96:
CARRYING OF CONCEALED WEAPONS AND DISPLAYING OF FIREARMS**

Section

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96.01 AUTHORITY.

This chapter is adopted pursuant to G.S. Chapter 153A-129, G.S.14-409.40, G.S. Chapter 14-415.23 and G.S.14-415.11.

96.02 PURPOSE.

The North Carolina General Assembly has enacted laws that preempt the regulation of firearms except as specifically provided in G.S. 14-415.23 and G.S. 14-409.40 including the various statutes referenced in that section. Citizens have the right to obtain permits to carry concealed handguns as provided in G.S. 14-415.11. Recent changes in the law will significantly increase the number of individuals who may legally carry concealed handguns. The Board of Commissioners is concerned about the increased presence of concealed handguns on County property and about the threat that such increased presence will pose to the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. It is the intent of this chapter to permit the posting of certain County property such that the carrying of concealed handguns on the posted premises will constitute a violation of General Statutes Chapter 14, Article 35, and that the display of all firearms in County owned and controlled buildings, grounds or parking areas of those buildings, or in public parks or recreation areas may be prohibited as provided in G.S. 14-409.40(f).

This ordinance revises the original ordinance enacted on November 20, 1995 and subsequently amended on March 3, 2008 to reflect recent statutory changes.

96.03 DISPLAYING OF FIREARMS ON COUNTY PROPERTY.

It shall be unlawful and a violation of G.S. 153A-129 for any person to possess or display a firearm in or on County owned and controlled buildings, on grounds, parking areas, sidewalks or alleys appurtenant to those buildings or in public parks or recreation areas except where such firearm is locked in a vehicle as provided in G.S. 14-409.40(f).

96.04 CARRYING OF CONCEALED HANDGUNS ON COUNTY PROPERTY.

It shall be unlawful and a violation of G.S. 14-415.23 for any person to carry a concealed handgun in County owned and controlled buildings and their appurtenant premises and on the following County owned and/or controlled recreational facilities except where such handgun is secured in a locked vehicle as provided in G.S. 14-415.23(b):

1. Allen's Creek Park
2. Haywood County School owned buildings and appurtenant athletic school gyms, fields and properties, which have been leased to the County for recreational athletic events and at which school and county athletic events are conducted.

96.05 FAIRGROUNDS

The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply at the Haywood County Fairgrounds during the days that any gun show, trade show or flea market, at which guns are sold, occurs.

96.06 POSTING OF SIGNS REQUIRED.

The County Manager is hereby ordered to post appropriate signage on each public park, recreational area, building or portion of a building, grounds or in parking areas of those buildings, on appurtenant sidewalks or alleys now or hereafter owned, leased as lessee, operated, occupied, managed or controlled by Haywood County as well as the appurtenant premises to such buildings as required by law pursuant to the enforcement of this ordinance as to carrying of concealed weapons.

96.07 LOCATION OF SIGNS.

Signs shall be visibly posted on the exterior of each entrance by which the general public can access the building, appurtenant premises, park, or other County property referred to in this ordinance. The County Manager shall exercise discretion in determining the necessity and appropriate location for other signs posted on the interior of the buildings, appurtenant premises, or recreational area.

96.08 EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEAL OF ORIGINAL ORDINANCE

This revised ordinance repeals the ordinance in Chapter 96 which was originally enacted on November 20, 1995 and subsequently amended on March 3, 2008, and shall be effective on and after April 4, 2016.