

Weapons – Possession and Use Generally

§5-73-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (1)** “Blasting agent” means any material or mixture consisting of fuel and oxidizer intended for blasting if the finished product as mixed for use or shipment cannot be detonated by means of a No. 8 test blasting cap when unconfined;
- (2)** “Collegiate athletic event” means a sporting or athletic contest, event, or practice of an individual or team of individuals in which one (1) or more individuals or a team of individuals sponsored by, funded by, represented by, or associated with a public or private university, college, or community college competes against themselves or another individual or team of individuals;
- (3)** “Contraband” means any explosive material that was used with the knowledge and consent of the owner to facilitate a violation of this subchapter, as well as any explosive material possessed under circumstances prohibited by law;
- (4)** “Destructive device” means:
- (A) Any of the following:
 - (i) Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas;
 - (ii) Bomb;
 - (iii) Grenade;
 - (iv) Rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces (4 oz.);
 - (v) Missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce (.25 oz.);
 - (vi) Mine; or
 - (vii) Similar device; and
 - (B) Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device as defined in subdivision (4)(A) of this section and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled for use as a weapon;
- (5)** (A) “Detonator” means any device containing any initiating or primary explosive that is used for initiating detonation.
- (B) A detonator may not contain more than ten grams (10g) of total explosives by weight, excluding ignition or delay charges, and may include, without limitation, electric blasting caps of instantaneous and delay types, blasting caps for use with safety fuses, detonating cord delay connectors, and noninstantaneous and delay blasting caps that use detonating cord, shock tube, or any other replacement for electric leg wires;
- (6)** “Distribute” means to sell, issue, give, transfer, or otherwise dispose of explosive material;
- (7)** (A) “Explosive” means any chemical compound mixture or device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion.
- (B) “Explosive” includes, without limitation:
- (i) Dynamite and any other high explosive;

- (ii) Black powder;
- (iii) Pellet powder;
- (iv) An initiating explosive;
- (v) A detonator;
- (vi) A safety fuse;
- (vii) A squib;
- (viii) A detonating cord;
- (ix) An igniter cord;
- (x) An igniter;
- (xi) Any material determined to be within the scope of 18 U.S.C. § 841 et seq.; and

(xii) Any material classified as an explosive other than consumer fireworks, 1.4 (Class C, Common), by the hazardous materials regulations of the United States Department of Transportation;

(8) “Explosive material” means an explosive, blasting agent, or detonator;

(9) “Instrument of crime” means anything manifestly designed, made, adapted, or commonly used for a criminal purpose;

(10) “Journey” means a person has left his or her home or the curtilage of his or her home either on foot, horseback, bicycle, or in an automobile for any purpose or duration;

(11) “Minor” means any person under eighteen (18) years of age;

(12) “Vehicle” means any automobile and is considered an extension of a person's home, with any protections that conveys; and

(13) “Violent felony conviction” means a conviction for any felony offense against the person which is codified in § 5-10-101 et seq., § 5-11-101 et seq., § 5-12-101 et seq., § 5-13-201 et seq., § 5-13-301 et seq., § 5-14-101 et seq., and § 5-14-201 et seq., or any other offense containing as an element of the offense one (1) of the following:

- (A) The use of physical force;
- (B) The use or threatened use of serious physical force;
- (C) The infliction of physical harm; or
- (D) The creation of a substantial risk of serious physical harm.

(14) “Loaded firearm” means a firearm that is assembled and contains an unexpended cartridge, shell, or projectile in the firing position, including without limitation:

(A) For a pistol or revolver, when an unexpended cartridge, shell, or projectile is in a position in which the unexpended cartridge, shell, or projectile could be fired by one (1) manual operation of any mechanism; and

(B) For a muzzle-loading firearm, when the muzzle-loading firearm is charged with a propellant and a projectile and is capped or primed.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3101; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3101; Acts 2001, No. 1430, § 1; 2005, No. 1226, § 1; 2017, No. 859, § 1; 2021, No. 956, § 1; 2023, No. 549, § 1.

§5-73-102. Possessing instrument of crime.

(a) A person commits the offense of possessing an instrument of crime if he or she possesses any instrument of crime with a purpose to employ it criminally.

(b) Possessing an instrument of crime is a Class A misdemeanor.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3102; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3102.

§5-73-103. Possession of firearms by certain persons.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section or unless authorized by and subject to such conditions as prescribed by the Governor, or his or her designee, or the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, or other bureau or office designated by the United States Department of Justice, no person shall possess or own any firearm who has been:

- (1) Convicted of a felony;
- (2) Adjudicated mentally ill; or
- (3) Committed involuntarily to any mental institution.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subdivisions (b)(2) and (3) of this section, a determination by a jury or a court that a person committed a felony constitutes a conviction for purposes of subsection (a) of this section even though the court suspended imposition of sentence or placed the defendant on probation.

(2) Subdivision (b)(1) of this section does not apply to a person whose case was dismissed and expunged under § 16-93-301 et seq. or § 16-98-303(g).

(3) The determination by the jury or court that the person committed a felony does not constitute a conviction for purposes of subsection (a) of this section if the person is subsequently granted a pardon explicitly restoring the ability to possess a firearm.

(c) (1) A person who violates this section commits a Class B felony if:

- (A) The person has a prior violent felony conviction;
- (B) The person's current possession of a firearm involves the commission of another crime;
- (C) The person has a prior felony conviction for an offense that had as an element of the offense the use or possession of a deadly weapon; or
- (D) The person has been previously convicted under this section or a similar provision from another jurisdiction.

(2) A person who violates this section commits a Class D felony if he or she has been previously convicted of a felony and his or her present conduct or the prior felony conviction does not fall within subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

(3) Otherwise, the person commits a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) The Governor may restore without granting a pardon the right of a convicted felon or an adjudicated delinquent to own and possess a firearm upon the recommendation of the chief law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction in which the person resides, so long as the underlying felony or delinquency adjudication:

- (1) Did not involve the use of a weapon; and
- (2) Occurred more than eight (8) years ago.

(e) As used in this section, "felony" means any state or federal felony, excluding a federal or state felony offense for which the person convicted has completed his or her sentence and pertaining to:

- (1) An antitrust violation;
- (2) An unfair trade practice;

(3) Restraint of trade; or

(4) Another offense relating to the regulation of business practices.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3103; 1977, No. 360, § 18; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3103; Acts 1987, No. 74, § 1; 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 63, § 1; 1995, No. 595, § 1; 1995, No. 1325, § 1; 2001, No. 1429, § 1; 2009, No. 1491, § 1; 2021, No. 631, § 2; 2023, No. 659, § 48.

§5-73-104. Criminal use of prohibited weapons.

(a) A person commits the offense of criminal use of prohibited weapons if, except as authorized by law, he or she knowingly uses, possesses, makes, repairs, sells, or otherwise deals in any:

(1) Bomb;

(2) Metal knuckles; or

(3) Other implement for the infliction of serious physical injury or death that serves no lawful purpose.

(b) This section does not apply if the person uses, possesses, makes, repairs, sells, or otherwise deals in an item described in this section that is in compliance with the National Firearms Act, 26 U.S.C. §§ 5801 — 5861, or other applicable federal law, as either existed on January 1, 2019.

(c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that:

(1) The defendant was a law enforcement officer, prosecuting attorney, deputy prosecuting attorney, prison guard, or member of the United States Armed Forces acting in the course and scope of his or her duty at the time he or she used or possessed the prohibited weapon; or

(2) The defendant used, possessed, made, repaired, sold, or otherwise dealt in any article enumerated in subsection (a) of this section under circumstances negating any likelihood that the weapon could be used as a weapon.

(d) (1) Criminal use of prohibited weapons is a Class B felony if the weapon is a bomb.

(2) Criminal use of prohibited weapons is a Class A misdemeanor if the offense is possession of metal knuckles.

(3) Otherwise, criminal use of prohibited weapons is a Class D felony.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3104; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3104; Acts 1993, No. 1189, § 7; 2005, No. 1994, § 438; 2011, No. 161, § 1; 2013, No. 539, § 1; 2019, No. 495, § 1; 2019, No. 1051, § 1.

§5-73-105. Legitimate manufacture, repair, and transportation of prohibited weapons.

Section 5-73-104 shall not be construed to prohibit the manufacture, repair, transportation, or sale of the weapons enumerated in §5-73-104 to or for an authorized representative of:

(1) The armed forces; or

(2) Any law enforcement agency.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3105; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3105.

§5-73-106. Defacing a firearm.

(a) A person commits the offense of defacing a firearm if he or she knowingly removes, defaces, mars, covers, alters, or destroys the manufacturer's serial number or identification mark of a firearm.

(b) Defacing a firearm is a Class D felony.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3106; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3106.

§5-73-107. Possession of a defaced firearm.

(a) A person commits the offense of possession of a defaced firearm if he or she knowingly possesses a firearm with a manufacturer's serial number or other identification mark required by law that has been removed, defaced, marred, altered, or destroyed.

(b) It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that:

(1) The person reported the possession to the police or other governmental agency prior to arrest or the issuance of an arrest warrant or summons; or

(2) The firearm was manufactured prior to January 1, 1968.

(c) (1) Possession of a defaced firearm is a Class D felony.

(2) However, possession of a defaced firearm is a Class A misdemeanor if the manufacturer's serial number or other identification mark required by law is merely covered or obstructed, but still retrievable.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3107; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3107; Acts 1995, No. 1202, § 1; 2017, No. 73, § 1.

§5-73-108. Criminal acts involving explosives.

(a) (1) A person commits the offense of criminal possession of explosive material or a destructive device if the person:

(A) Sells, possesses, manufactures, transfers, or transports explosive material or a destructive device; and

(B) Either:

(i) Has the purpose of using that explosive material or destructive device to commit an offense; or

(ii) Knows or reasonably should know that another person intends to use that explosive material or destructive device to commit an offense.

(2) Criminal possession of explosive material or a destructive device is a Class B felony.

(b) (1) A person commits the offense of criminal distribution of explosive material if he or she knowingly distributes explosive material to any individual who:

(A) Has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a crime in state or federal court punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one

(1) year;

(B) Is a fugitive from justice;

(C) Is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance;

(D) Has been adjudicated as having a mental disease or defect or has been committed to an institution or residential treatment facility because of a mental disease or defect;

(E) Is under twenty-one (21) years of age;

(F) Is an alien, other than an alien who is:

(i) Lawfully admitted for permanent residence as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20), as it existed on January 1, 2009;

(ii) In lawful nonimmigrant status, a refugee admitted under 8 U.S.C. § 1157, as it existed on January 1, 2009, or in asylum status under 8 U.S.C. § 1158, as it existed on January 1, 2009, and either:

(a) A foreign law enforcement officer of a friendly foreign government, as determined by the United States Secretary of State under 18 U.S.C. § 842, entering the United States on official law enforcement business, and the distribution of explosive material is in furtherance of this official law enforcement business; or

(b) A person having the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a corporation, partnership, or association licensed under 18 U.S.C. § 843, as it existed on January 1, 2009, and the distribution of explosive material is in furtherance of the person's power;

(iii) A member of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization or other friendly foreign military force, as determined by the United States Attorney General in consultation with the United States Secretary of Defense under 18 U.S.C. § 842, who is present in the United States under military orders for training or other military purpose authorized by the United States, and the distribution of explosive material is in furtherance of the military orders for training or authorized military purpose; or

(iv) Lawfully present in the United States in cooperation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and the distribution of explosive material is in furtherance of the cooperation;

(G) Has been dishonorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces; or

(H) Has renounced his or her United States citizenship.

(2) Criminal distribution of explosive material is a Class C felony.

(c) (1) A person commits the offense of possession of stolen explosive material if he or she:

(A) Receives, possesses, transports, ships, conceals, stores, barter, sells, disposes of, or pledges or accepts as security for a loan any stolen explosive materials; and

(B) Knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the explosive material was stolen.

(2) Possession of stolen explosive material is a Class C felony.

(d) (1) A person commits the offense of unlawful receipt or possession of an explosive material if the person receives or possesses explosive material and:

(A) Has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty in any state or federal court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one (1) year;

(B) Is a fugitive from justice;

(C) Is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance;

(D) Has been adjudicated to have a mental disease or defect or has been committed to an institution or residential treatment facility because of a mental disease or defect;

(E) Is under twenty-one (21) years of age;

(F) Is an alien, other than an alien who is:

(i) Lawfully admitted for permanent residence as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20), as it existed on January 1, 2009; or

(ii) In lawful nonimmigrant status, a refugee admitted under 8 U.S.C. § 1157, as it existed on January 1, 2009, or in asylum status under 8 U.S.C. § 1158, as it existed on January 1, 2009, and either:

(a) A foreign law enforcement officer of a friendly foreign government, as determined by the United States Secretary of State under 18 U.S.C. § 842, entering the United States on official law enforcement business, and the receipt or possession of the explosive material is in furtherance of this official law enforcement business; or

(b) A person having the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a corporation, partnership, or association licensed under 18 U.S.C. § 843, as it existed on January 1, 2009, and the receipt or possession of the explosive material is in furtherance of the person's power;

(iii) A member of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization or other friendly foreign military force, as determined by the United States Attorney General in consultation with the United States Secretary of Defense under 18 U.S.C. § 842, who is present in the United States under military orders for training or other military purpose authorized by the United States, and the receipt or possession of the explosive material is in furtherance of the military orders for training or authorized military purpose; or

(iv) Lawfully present in the United States in cooperation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and the receipt or possession of the explosive material is in furtherance of the cooperation;

(G) Has been dishonorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces; or

(H) Has renounced his or her United States citizenship.

(2) Unlawful receipt or possession of explosive material is a Class C felony.

(3) It is a defense to prosecution under this subsection if at the time of the receiving or possessing the explosive material the person was acting within the scope of his or her employment with a business authorized to use explosive material.

(e) It is a Class A misdemeanor for any person to store any explosive material in a manner not in conformity with the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

(f) A person who commits theft of any explosive material with the purpose to cause harm to a person or property is guilty of a Class B felony.

(g) Any explosive material determined to be contraband is subject to seizure by a law enforcement officer and to being destroyed in conformity with the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

(h) As used in this section, "alien" means a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3108; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3108; Acts 2005, No. 1226, § 2; 2006 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 14, § 1; 2009, No. 339, § 1; 2011, No. 1120, § 14; 2023, No. 736, § 11.

§5-73-109. Furnishing a deadly weapon to a minor.

(a) A person commits the offense of furnishing a deadly weapon to a minor if he or she sells, barter, leases, gives, rents, or otherwise furnishes a firearm or other deadly weapon to a minor without the consent of a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for general supervision of the minor's welfare.

(b) (1) Furnishing a deadly weapon to a minor is a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) However, furnishing a deadly weapon to a minor is a Class B felony if the deadly weapon is:

(A) A handgun;

(B) An explosive or incendiary device, as defined in §5-71-301;

(C) Metal knuckles;

(D) A defaced firearm, as described in §5-73-107; or

(E) Another implement for the infliction of serious physical injury or death

that serves no lawful purpose.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3109; A.S.A., 1947, § 41-3109; Acts 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 45, § 1; 2019, No. 495, § 2; 2019, No. 1051, § 2.

§5-73-110. Disarming minors and mentally defective or mentally irresponsible persons — Disposition of property seized.

(a) Subject to constitutional limitation, nothing in this section and §§5-73-101 — 5-73-109 shall be construed to prohibit a law enforcement officer from disarming, without arresting, a minor or person who reasonably appears to be mentally defective or otherwise mentally irresponsible when that person is in possession of a deadly weapon.

(b) Property seized under subsection (a) of this section shall be:

(1) Held for seventy-two (72) hours by the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer who seized the property; and

(2) After the seventy-two-hour hold and upon request and presentation of valid proof of ownership, returned to the:

(A) Owner, if he or she is eighteen (18) years of age or older and may lawfully possess the property; or

(B) Parent or legal guardian of the owner, if the owner is a minor and the parent or legal guardian may lawfully possess the property.

History Acts 1975, No. 280, § 3110; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3110; Acts 2015, No. 688, § 1.

§5-73-111. Unlawful procurement of a firearm.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Ammunition” means any cartridge, shell, or projectile designed for use in a firearm;

(2) “False information” means information that portrays an unlawful transaction as lawful or a lawful transaction as unlawful;

(3) “Licensed dealer” means a person who is licensed under 18 U.S.C. § 923, as it existed on January 1, 2013, to engage in the business of dealing in firearms; and

(4) “Private seller” means a person other than a licensed dealer who sells or offers for sale a firearm or ammunition.

(b) A person commits the offense of unlawful procurement of a firearm or ammunition if he or she knowingly:

(1) Solicits, persuades, encourages, or entices a licensed dealer or private seller to transfer a firearm or ammunition under unlawful circumstances; or

(2) Provides false information to a licensed dealer or private seller with a purpose to deceive the licensed dealer or private seller concerning the lawfulness of a transfer of a firearm or ammunition.

(c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section if the person is:

(1) A law enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity; or

(2) Acting at the direction of a law enforcement officer.

(d) Unlawful procurement of a firearm or ammunition is a Class D felony.

History Acts 2013, No. 507, § 1.

§5-73-112. Certification by a chief law enforcement officer regarding receipt or manufacture of a firearm.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Certification” means the participation and assent of the chief law enforcement officer or his or her designee necessary under federal law for the approval of an application to transfer or manufacture a firearm; and

(2) “Firearm” means the same as defined in § 5845(a) of the National Firearms Act, 26 U.S.C. § 5801 et seq. as it existed on January 1, 2015.

(b) (1) When certification by the chief law enforcement officer of a jurisdiction is required by federal law or regulation for the transfer or manufacture of a firearm within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a request for certification, the chief law enforcement officer or his or her designee shall provide the certification if the applicant is not prohibited by law from receiving or manufacturing the firearm or is not the subject of a proceeding that could result in the applicant's being prohibited by law from receiving or manufacturing the firearm.

(2) If the applicant is prohibited by law from receiving or manufacturing the firearm or is the subject of a proceeding that could result in a prohibition against his or her receiving or manufacturing the firearm, the chief law enforcement officer or his or her designee shall provide written notification to the applicant that states the reasons for his or her findings and that the certification is denied.

(c) (1) An applicant whose request for certification is denied may appeal the denial to the circuit court where the applicant resides.

(2) The circuit court shall review the denial de novo.

(3) If the circuit court finds that the applicant is not prohibited by law from receiving or manufacturing the firearm or is not the subject of a proceeding that could result in a prohibition against his or her receiving or manufacturing the firearm, the circuit court shall order the chief law enforcement officer to issue the certification to the applicant.

(d) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(3) of this section, the chief law enforcement officer of a jurisdiction and his or her employees who act in good faith are immune from civil liability arising from any act or omission in making a certification under this section.

History Acts 2015, No. 720, § 1.

§5-73-113 -- 5-73-118. [Reserved.]

§5-73-119. Handguns — Possession by minor or possession on school property.

(a) (1) No person in this state under eighteen (18) years of age shall possess a handgun.

(2) (A) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(B) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) of this section is a Class D felony if the person has previously:

(i) Been adjudicated delinquent for a violation of subdivision (a)(1) of this section;

(ii) Been adjudicated delinquent for any offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult; or

(iii) Pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of a felony in circuit court while under eighteen (18) years of age.

(b) (1) No person in this state shall possess a firearm:

(A) Upon the developed property of a public or private school, kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12);

(B) In or upon any school bus; or

(C) At a designated bus stop as identified on the route list published by a school district each year.

(2) (A) A violation of subdivision (b)(1) of this section is a Class D felony.

(B) No sentence imposed for a violation of subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be suspended or probated or treated as a first offense under §16-93-301 et seq.

(c) (1) Except as provided in §5-73-322, a person in this state shall not possess a handgun upon the property of any private institution of higher education or a publicly supported institution of higher education in this state on or about his or her person, in a vehicle occupied by him or her, or otherwise readily available for use with a purpose to employ the handgun as a weapon against a person.

(2) A violation of subdivision (c)(1) of this section is a Class D felony.

(d) “Handgun” means a firearm capable of firing rimfire ammunition or centerfire ammunition and designed or constructed to be fired with one (1) hand.

(e) It is permissible to carry a handgun under this section if at the time of the act of possessing a handgun or firearm:

(1) The person is in his or her own dwelling or place of business or on property in which he or she has a possessory or proprietary interest, except upon the property of a public or private institution of higher learning;

(2) The person is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or member of the armed forces acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties;

(3) The person is assisting a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or member of the armed forces acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties pursuant to the direction or request of the law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or member of the armed forces;

(4) The person is a registered commissioned security guard acting in the course and scope of his or her duties;

(5) The person is hunting game with a handgun or firearm that may be hunted with a handgun or firearm under the rules and regulations of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission or is en route to or from a hunting area for the purpose of hunting game with a handgun or firearm;

(6) (A) The person is a certified law enforcement officer, either on-duty or off-duty.

(B) If the person is an off-duty law enforcement officer, he or she may be required by a public school or publicly supported institution of higher education to be in physical possession of a valid identification identifying the person as a law enforcement officer;

(7) The person is on a journey, unless the person is eighteen (18) years of age or less;

(8) The person is participating in a certified hunting safety course sponsored by the commission or a firearm safety course recognized and approved by the commission or by a state or national nonprofit organization qualified and experienced in firearm safety;

(9) The person is participating in a school-approved educational course or sporting activity involving the use of firearms;

(10) The person is a minor engaged in lawful marksmanship competition or practice or other lawful recreational shooting under the supervision of his or her parent, legal guardian, or other person twenty-one (21) years of age or older standing in loco parentis or is traveling to or from a lawful marksmanship competition or practice or other lawful recreational shooting with an unloaded handgun or firearm accompanied by his or her parent, legal guardian, or other person twenty-one (21) years of age or older standing in loco parentis;

(11) The person has a license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq. and is carrying a concealed handgun on the developed property of:

(A) A kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) private school operated by a church or other place of worship that:

(i) Is located on the developed property of the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) private school;

(ii) Allows the person to carry a concealed handgun into the church or other place of worship under § 5-73-306; and

(iii) Allows the person to possess a concealed handgun on the developed property of the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) private school; or

(B) A kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) private school or a prekindergarten private school that through its governing board or director has set forth the rules and circumstances under which the licensee may carry a concealed handgun into a building or event of the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) private school or the prekindergarten private school; or

(12) (A) The person has a license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq. and is carrying a concealed handgun in his or her motor vehicle or has left the concealed handgun in his or her locked and unattended motor vehicle in a publicly owned and maintained parking lot.

(B) (i) As used in this subdivision (e)(12), “parking lot” means a designated area or structure or part of a structure intended for the parking of motor vehicles or a designated drop-off zone for children at a school.

(ii) “Parking lot” does not include a parking lot owned, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the Division of Correction or Division of Community Correction.

History Acts 1989, No. 649, §§ 1-4; 1993, No. 1166, § 1; 1993, No. 1189, § 4; 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 57, § 1; 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 58, § 1; 1999, No. 1282, § 1; 2001, No. 592, § 1; 2005, No. 1994, § 476; 2013, No. 226, § 1; 2013, No. 746, § 1; 2013, No. 1390, § 1; 2015, No. 933, § 1; 2015, No. 1078, § 1; 2019, No. 472, § 1; 2019, No. 910, § 679; 2023, No. 166, § 1; 2023, No. 773, § 1.

§5-73-120. Carrying a weapon.

(a) A person commits the offense of carrying a weapon if he or she possesses a handgun, knife, or club on or about his or her person, in a vehicle occupied by him or her, or otherwise readily available for use with a purpose to attempt to unlawfully employ the handgun, knife, or club as a weapon against a person.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) “Club” means any instrument that is specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious physical injury or death by striking, including a blackjack, billie, and sap;

(2) “Handgun” means any firearm with a barrel length of less than twelve inches (12”) that is designed, made, or adapted to be fired with one (1) hand; and

(3) “Knife” means any bladed hand instrument three inches (3”) or longer that is capable of inflicting serious physical injury or death by cutting or stabbing, including a dirk, a sword or spear in a cane, a razor, an ice pick, a throwing star, a switchblade, and a butterfly knife.

(c) A person is presumed to be carrying a weapon with a lawful purpose under this section if at the time of the act of carrying the weapon:

(1) The person is in his or her own dwelling, in his or her personal vehicle, in his or her place of business, or on property in which he or she has a possessory or proprietary interest;

(2) The person is a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or member of the armed forces, acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties;

(3) The person is assisting a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or member of the armed forces acting in the course and scope of his or her official duties pursuant to the direction or request of the law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or member of the armed forces;

(4) The person is carrying a weapon when upon a journey, unless the journey is through a commercial airport when presenting at the security checkpoint in

the airport or is in the person's checked baggage and is not a lawfully declared weapon;

(5) The person is a registered commissioned security guard acting in the course and scope of his or her duties;

(6) The person is hunting game with a handgun that may be hunted with a handgun under rules and regulations of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission or is en route to or from a hunting area for the purpose of hunting game with a handgun;

(7) (A) The person is a certified law enforcement officer, either on-duty or off-duty.

(B) If the person is an off-duty law enforcement officer, he or she may be required by a public school or publicly supported institution of higher education to be in physical possession of a valid identification identifying the person as a law enforcement officer;

(8) The person is in possession of a concealed handgun and has a valid license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq., or recognized under § 5-73-321 and is not in a prohibited place as defined by § 5-73-306;

(9) The person is a prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney carrying a firearm under § 16-21-147;

(10) The person is in possession of a handgun and is a retired law enforcement officer with a valid concealed carry authorization issued under federal or state law;

(11) The person is in possession of a concealed handgun and is a current or former district court judge, circuit court judge, Court of Appeals judge, or Supreme Court justice, with a valid license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq.; or

(12) The person:

(A) Is an employee of the Department of Corrections;

(B) Is in his or her personal vehicle in a parking lot owned or operated by the department;

(C) Has stored the weapon in a locked storage container that is attached to his or her personal vehicle; and

(D) Has declared in writing to the department his or her intent to carry a weapon and received approval to carry a weapon under this subdivision (c)(12) in writing from the Secretary of the Department of Corrections or his or her designee.

(d) Carrying a weapon is a Class A misdemeanor.

History Acts 1975, No. 696, § 1; 1981, No. 813, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, § 41-3151; Acts 1987, No. 266, § 1; 1987, No. 556, § 1; 1987, No. 734, § 1; 1995, No. 832, § 1; 2003, No. 1267, § 2; 2005, No. 1994, § 293; 2013, No. 539, § 2; 2013, No. 746, § 2; 2015, No. 1155, § 14; 2019, No. 472, § 2; 2021, No. 766, § 1; 2021, No. 956, § 2; 2023, No. 166, § 2; 2023, No. 174, § 4; 2023, No. 752, § 1.

§5-73-121. [Repealed.]

§5-73-122. Carrying a firearm in publicly owned buildings or facilities.

(a) (1) Except as provided in § 5-73-322, § 5-73-306(5), § 16-21-147, and this section, it is unlawful for a person other than a law enforcement officer, either

on-duty or off-duty, a security guard in the employ of the state or an agency of the state or any city or county, a member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or any state or federal military personnel, to knowingly carry or possess a loaded firearm or other deadly weapon in any publicly owned building or facility or on the State Capitol grounds.

(2) It is unlawful for any person other than a law enforcement officer, either on-duty or off-duty, a security guard in the employ of the state or an agency of the state or any city or county, a member of a municipal fire department bomb squad who is authorized to carry a concealed handgun under § 12-15-204, or any state or federal military personnel, to knowingly carry or possess a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, in the State Capitol Building or the Arkansas Justice Building in Little Rock.

(3) However, this subsection does not apply to a person carrying or possessing a firearm or other deadly weapon in a publicly owned building or facility or on the State Capitol grounds:

(A) For the purpose of participating in a shooting match or target practice under the auspices of the agency responsible for the publicly owned building or facility or State Capitol grounds;

(B) If necessary to participate in a trade show, exhibit, or educational course conducted in the publicly owned building or facility or on the State Capitol grounds;

(C) (i) If the person has a license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq. and is carrying a concealed handgun in his or her motor vehicle or has left the concealed handgun in his or her locked and unattended motor vehicle in a publicly owned and maintained parking lot.

(ii) (a) As used in this subdivision (a)(3)(C), “parking lot” means a designated area or structure or part of a structure intended for the parking of motor vehicles or a designated drop-off zone for children at school.

(b) “Parking lot” does not include a parking lot owned, maintained, or otherwise controlled by:

(1) The Division of Correction;

(2) The Division of Community Correction; or

(3) A residential treatment facility owned or operated by the Division of Youth Services;

(D) If the person has completed the required training and received a concealed carry endorsement under § 5-73-322(g) and the place is not:

(i) A courtroom or the location of an administrative hearing conducted by a state agency, except as permitted by § 5-73-306(5) or § 5-73-306(6);

(ii) A public school kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), a public prekindergarten, or a public daycare facility, except as permitted under subdivision (a)(3)(C) of this section;

(iii) A facility operated by the Division of Correction or the Division of Community Correction; or

(iv) A posted firearm-sensitive area, as approved by the Division of Arkansas State Police under § 5-73-325, located at:

- (a) The Arkansas State Hospital;
- (b) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; or
- (c) A collegiate athletic event;

(E) If the person has a license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq., is a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge on the Court of Appeals, and is carrying a concealed handgun in the Arkansas Justice Building; or

(F) If the person has a license to carry a concealed handgun under § 5-73-301 et seq. and is carrying a concealed handgun in a municipally owned or maintained park, or another similar municipally owned or maintained recreational property, except for those portions of a municipally owned or maintained park or recreational property that contain a:

- (i) Football field, baseball field, soccer field, or other sports field where an athletic event or practice is occurring at the time;
- (ii) Municipally owned or maintained building; or
- (iii) Leased area to be used for a special event.

(4) As used in this section, “facility” does not mean a municipally owned or maintained park, football field, baseball field, soccer field, or another similar municipally owned or maintained recreational structure or property.

(b) However, a law enforcement officer, either on-duty or off-duty, officer of the court, bailiff, or other person authorized by the court is permitted to possess a handgun in the courtroom of any court or a courthouse of this state.

(c) A person violating this section upon conviction is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

(d) An off-duty law enforcement officer carrying a firearm in a publicly owned building or facility may be required to be in physical possession of a valid identification identifying the person as a law enforcement officer.

(e) An off-duty law enforcement officer may not carry a firearm into a courtroom if the off-duty law enforcement officer is a party to or a witness in a civil or criminal matter unless the law provides otherwise.

History Acts 1977, No. 549, §§ 1, 2; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 41-3113, 41-3114; Acts 1991, No. 1044, § 1; 1995, No. 1223, § 1; 1997, No. 910, § 1; 2013, No. 226, § 2; 2015, No. 1078, § 2; 2015, No. 1259, § 1; 2017, No. 562, § 1; 2017, No. 859, § 2; 2017, No. 1087, § 1; 2019, No. 431, § 1; 2019, No. 472, §§ 3-5; 2019, No. 910, §§ 680, 681; 2021, No. 638, § 1; 2021, No. 693, § 1; 2023, No. 166, § 3.

§5-73-123. [Repealed.]

§5-73-124. Tear gas — Pepper spray.

(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person who knowingly carries or has in his or her possession any tear gas or pepper spray in any form, or any person who knowingly carries or has in his or her possession any gun, bomb, grenade, cartridge, or other weapon designed for the discharge of tear gas or pepper spray, upon conviction is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) (A) It is lawful for a person to possess or carry, and use, a container of tear gas or pepper spray to be used for self-defense purposes only.

(B) However, the capacity of the container shall not exceed three hundred milliliters (300 ml).

(b) The provisions of this section do not apply to any:

(1) Law enforcement officer while engaged in the discharge of his or her official duties; or

(2) Banking institution desiring to have possession of tear gas or pepper spray in any form for the purpose of securing funds in its custody from theft or robbery.

History Acts 1949, No. 338, §§ 1-3; 1977, No. 329, §§ 1, 2; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 41-3168 — 41-3170; Acts 1993, No. 674, § 1; 1995, No. 1201, § 1; 2011, No. 1168, § 2; 2013, No. 1125, §§ 18, 19; 2021, No. 566, § 1.

§5-73-125. Interstate sale and purchase of shotguns, rifles, and ammunition.

(a) The sale of shotguns and rifles and ammunition in this state to residents of other states is authorized under regulations issued by the United States Attorney General under the Gun Control Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq., as in effect on January 1, 2009.

(b) A resident of this state may purchase a rifle, shotgun, or ammunition in another state as expressly authorized under the regulations issued under the Gun Control Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq., as in effect on January 1, 2009.

History Acts 1969, No. 159, §§ 1, 2; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 41-3174, 41-3175; Acts 2009, No. 487, § 1.

§5-73-126. Booby traps.

(a) It is unlawful for any person to install or maintain a booby trap upon his or her own property or any other person's property.

(b) As used in this section, “booby trap” means a device designed to cause death or serious physical injury to a person.

(c) Any person who pleads guilty or nolo contendere or who is found guilty of violating this section is guilty of a Class D felony.

History Acts 1985, No. 243, §§ 1, 2; 1985, No. 399, §§ 1, 2; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 41-1660, 41-1661.

§5-73-127. [Repealed.]

§5-73-128. Offenses upon property of public schools.

(a) (1) The court shall prepare and transmit to the Department of Finance and Administration an order of denial of driving privileges for a person within twenty-four (24) hours after the plea or finding, if a person who is less than nineteen (19) years of age at the time of the commission of the offense:

(A) Pleads guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal offense under § 5-73-101 et seq. or the Uniform Machine Gun Act, § 5-73-201 et seq., and the plea is accepted by the court, or is found guilty of any criminal offense under § 5-73-101 et seq. or the Uniform Machine Gun Act, § 5-73-201 et seq., if the state proves that the offense was committed upon the property of a public school or in or upon any school bus; or

(B) Is found by a juvenile division of circuit court to have committed an offense described in subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.

(2) In a case of extreme and unusual hardship, the order may provide for the issuance of a restricted driving permit to allow driving to and from a place of employment or driving to and from school.

(b) Upon receipt of an order of denial of driving privileges under this section, the department shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license of the person for not less than twelve (12) months nor more than thirty-six (36) months.

(c) A penalty prescribed in this section is in addition to any other penalty prescribed by law for an offense covered by this section.

History Acts 1993, No. 264 §§ 1-3; 1993, No. 781, §§ 1-3.

§5-73-129. Furnishing a handgun or a prohibited weapon to a felon.

(a) A person commits the offense of furnishing a handgun to a felon if he or she sells, barter, leases, gives, rents, or otherwise furnishes a handgun to a person whom he or she knows has been found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony.

(b) A person commits the offense of furnishing a prohibited weapon to a felon if he or she sells, barter, leases, gives, rents, or otherwise furnishes:

(1) A bomb;

(2) Metal knuckles;

(3) A defaced firearm, as described in § 5-73-107; or

(4) Other implement for the infliction of serious physical injury or death that serves no lawful purpose,

to a person he or she knows has been found guilty of or who has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony.

(c) Furnishing a handgun or a prohibited weapon to a felon is a Class B felony.

History Acts 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 41, § 1; 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 42, § 1; 2019, No. 495, § 3; 2019, No. 1051, § 3.

§5-73-130. Seizure and forfeiture of firearm — Seizure and forfeiture of motor vehicle — Disposition of property seized.

(a) If a person under eighteen (18) years of age is unlawfully in possession of a firearm, the firearm shall be seized and, after an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction, is subject to forfeiture.

(b) If a felon or a person under eighteen (18) years of age is unlawfully in possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, the motor vehicle is subject to seizure and, after an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction, subject to forfeiture.

(c) As used in this section, “unlawfully in possession of a firearm” does not include any act of possession of a firearm that is prohibited only by a regulation or rule of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

(d) The procedures for forfeiture and disposition of the seized property are as follows:

(1) The prosecuting attorney of the judicial district within whose jurisdiction the property is seized that is sought to be forfeited shall promptly proceed against the property by filing in the circuit court a petition for an order to show cause why the circuit court should not order forfeiture of the property; and

(2) The petition shall be verified and shall set forth:

- (A) A statement that the action is brought pursuant to this section;
- (B) The law enforcement agency bringing the action;
- (C) A description of the property sought to be forfeited;
- (D) A statement that on or about a date certain there was an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction and a finding that the property seized is subject to forfeiture;
- (E) A statement detailing the facts in support of subdivision (d)(1) of this section; and
- (F) A list of all persons known to the law enforcement agency, after diligent search and inquiry, who may claim an ownership interest in the property by title or registration or by virtue of a lien allegedly perfected in the manner prescribed by law.

(e) (1) Upon receipt of a petition complying with the requirements of subdivision (d)(1) of this section, the circuit court judge having jurisdiction shall issue an order to show cause setting forth a statement that this subchapter is the controlling law.

(2) In addition, the order shall set a date at least forty-one (41) days from the date of first publication of the order pursuant to subsection (f) of this section for all persons claiming an interest in the property to file such pleadings as they desire as to why the circuit court should not order the forfeiture of the property for use, sale, or other disposition by the law enforcement agency seeking forfeiture of the property.

(3) The circuit court shall further order that any person who does not appear on that date is deemed to have defaulted and waived any claim to the subject property.

(f) (1) The prosecuting attorney shall give notice of the forfeiture proceedings by:

(A) Causing a copy of the order to show cause to be published two (2) times each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the county where the property is located with the last publication being not less than five (5) days before the show cause hearing; and

(B) Sending a copy of the petition and order to show cause by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each person having ownership of or a security interest in the property or in the manner provided in Rule 4 of the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure if:

- (i) The property is of a type for which title or registration is required by law;
- (ii) The owner of the property is known in fact to the law enforcement agency at the time of seizure; or
- (iii) The property is subject to a security interest perfected in accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code, § 4-1-101 et seq.

(2) The law enforcement agency is only obligated to make diligent search and inquiry as to the owner of the property, and if, after diligent search and inquiry, the law enforcement agency is unable to ascertain the owner, the requirement of actual notice by mail with respect to a person having a perfected security interest in the property is not applicable.

(g) At the hearing on the matter, the petitioner has the burden to establish that the property is subject to forfeiture by a preponderance of the evidence.

(h) In determining whether or not a motor vehicle should be ordered forfeited, the circuit court may take into consideration the following factors:

(1) Any prior criminal conviction or delinquency adjudication of the felon or juvenile;

(2) Whether or not the firearm was used in connection with any other criminal act;

(3) Whether or not the motor vehicle was used in connection with any other criminal act;

(4) Whether or not the juvenile or felon was the lawful owner of the motor vehicle in question;

(5) If the juvenile or felon is not the lawful owner of the motor vehicle in question, whether or not the lawful owner knew of the unlawful act being committed that gives rise to the forfeiture penalty; and

(6) Any other factor the circuit court deems relevant.

(i) The final order of forfeiture by the circuit court shall perfect in the law enforcement agency right, title, and interest in and to the property and shall relate back to the date of the seizure.

(j) Physical seizure of property is not necessary in order to allege in a petition under this section that the property is forfeitable.

(k) Upon filing the petition, the prosecuting attorney for the judicial district may also seek a protective order to prevent the transfer, encumbrance, or other disposal of any property named in the petition.

(l) The law enforcement agency to which a motor vehicle is forfeited shall either:

(1) Sell the motor vehicle in accordance with subsection (m) of this section; or

(2) If the motor vehicle is not subject to a lien that has been preserved by the circuit court, retain the motor vehicle for official use.

(m) (1) If a law enforcement agency desires to sell a forfeited motor vehicle, the law enforcement agency shall first cause notice of the sale to be made by publication at least two (2) times a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the county and by sending a copy of the notice of the sale by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each person having ownership of or a security interest in the property or in the manner provided in Rule 4 of the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure if:

(A) The property is of a type for which title or registration is required by law;

(B) The owner of the property is known in fact to the law enforcement agency at the time of seizure; or

(C) The property is subject to a security interest perfected in accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code, § 4-1-101 et seq.

(2) The notice of the sale shall include the time, place, and conditions of the sale and a description of the property to be sold.

(3) The property shall then be disposed of at public auction to the highest bidder for cash without appraisal.

(n) The proceeds of any sale and any moneys forfeited shall be applied to the payment of:

(1) The balance due on any lien preserved by the circuit court in the forfeiture proceedings;

(2) The cost incurred by the seizing law enforcement agency in connection with the storage, maintenance, security, and forfeiture of the property;

(3) The costs incurred by the prosecuting attorney or attorney for the law enforcement agency, approved by the prosecuting attorney, to which the property is forfeited; and

(4) Costs incurred by the circuit court.

(o) The remaining proceeds or moneys shall be deposited into a special county fund to be titled the “Juvenile Crime Prevention Fund”, and the moneys in the fund shall be used solely for making grants to community-based nonprofit organizations that work with juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation.

(p) (1) The law enforcement agency to which a firearm is forfeited may trade the firearm to a federally licensed firearms dealer for credit toward future purchases by the law enforcement agency.

(2) If the firearm is unable to be traded to a federally licensed firearms dealer, the law enforcement agency may dispose of the firearm as the law enforcement agency deems appropriate.

History Acts 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 55, § 1; 1994 (2nd Ex. Sess.), No. 56, § 1; 2005, No. 1994, § 260; 2007, No. 827, § 96; 2019, No. 315, § 171; 2019, No. 630, §§ 1, 2; 2021, No. 433, § 2.

§5-73-131. Possession or use of weapons by incarcerated persons.

(a) A person commits the offense of possession or use of weapons by incarcerated persons if, without approval of custodial authority he or she uses, possesses, makes, repairs, sells, or otherwise deals in any weapon, including, but not limited to, any bomb, firearm, knife, or other implement for the infliction of serious physical injury or death and that serves no common lawful purpose, while incarcerated in the Division of Correction, the Division of Community Correction, or a county or municipal jail or detention facility.

(b) Possession or use of weapons by incarcerated persons is a Class D felony.

(c) This section is not applicable to possession of a weapon by an incarcerated person before he or she completes the standard booking and search procedures in a jail facility after arrest.

History Acts 1995, No. 443, § 1; 1995, No. 453, § 1; 2019, No. 910, § 682.

§5-73-132. Sale, rental, or transfer of firearm to person prohibited from possessing firearms.

(a) A person shall not sell, rent, or transfer a firearm to any person whom he or she knows is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing the firearm.

(b) (1) Violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor, unless the firearm is:

(A) A handgun;

(B) An explosive or incendiary device, as defined in § 5-71-301;

(C) A defaced firearm, as described in § 5-73-107; or

(D) Other implement for the infliction of serious physical injury or death that serves no lawful purpose.

(2) If the firearm is listed in subdivision (b)(1) of this section, a violation of this section is a Class B felony.

History Acts 1999, No. 1558, § 3; 2019, No. 495, § 4; 2019, No. 1051, § 4.

§5-73-133. Possession of a taser stun gun.

(a) As used in this section, “taser stun gun” means any device that:

(1) Is powered by an electrical charging unit such as a battery; and

(2) Either:

(A) Emits an electrical charge in excess of twenty thousand (20,000) volts; or

(B) Is otherwise capable of incapacitating a person by an electrical charge.

(b) (1) No person who is eighteen (18) years of age or under may purchase or possess a taser stun gun.

(2) No person shall sell, barter, lease, give, rent, or otherwise furnish a taser stun gun to a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or under.

(c) Any law enforcement officer using a taser stun gun shall be properly trained in the use of the taser stun gun and informed of any danger or risk of serious harm and injury that may be caused by the use of the taser stun gun on a person.

(d) (1) A person who violates subdivision (b)(1) of this section is deemed guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(2) A person who violates subdivision (b)(2) of this section is deemed guilty of a Class B felony.

History Acts 2005, No. 2153, § 1.