



The Nebraska District
of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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November 15, 2017

Though I am not encouraging congregations in this direction, in the wake of the recent church shootings, questions and discussion has arisen concerning having concealed carry security in our churches. **Without providing you any legal counsel**, it would seem that pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 69-2441(1)(c), an individual possessing a license under the Nebraska Concealed Handgun Permit Act may carry a concealed weapon on Church property if:

1. The individual has been appointed as a member of the Church's "security personnel";
2. "Written notice" is given to the congregation.
3. If you are renting your lessor would need to permit such practice

Should your Board wish to pursue this course of action, **I highly recommend that you seek guidance and direction from knowledgeable legal counsel and local law enforcement on the issue and also coordinate your action with your insurance carrier.** The primary insurance carriers for religious entities all have resources for your review on this issue as well. It would also seem appropriate that the Church (1) have a formal security policy, (2) maintain a file with a copy of the Concealed Handgun Permit held by each person designated as a member of the Church's "security personnel" who may be authorized by the church to carry a concealed weapon, (3) cause the appointment to expire upon the expiration or revocation of the holder's license, (4) publish a notice to the congregation that complies appropriately with § 69-2441(1)(c), (5) notify the Church's liability carrier, local law enforcement, and legal counsel in writing before the policy approval and appointment of "security personnel", and (6) hold appropriate training for the security team prior to and during their term of appointment to the security team.

Note that the above reference to Nebraska Statute § 69-2441(1)(c) is only one small section within the Nebraska Statutes addressing Concealed Carry in Nebraska – you will need to review and comply with all Federal and State statutes addressing the issue.

None of this would, of course, eliminate liability.

Again, I would highly encourage you seek legal counsel and coordinate with local law enforcement in order to set up proper policy and appointment of personnel.

The referenced statute can be found here:

<http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=69-2441>.

In addition, the following information has come from LCMS Vice-President Herbert Mueller:

Active Shooter Response Plans

Our Church Information Center has received inquiries regarding plans for responding to active shooters (in the context of the church shooting in Texas). We have received resources from Joel Rivers, the LCMS security officer, that we provide congregations making inquiry through the Church Information Center. We recommend that congregations work with their local law enforcement to put a plan into place that works for the congregation and for the local agency.

Some links that might have useful information are:

- <https://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>
- <https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources>

Please note that the Nebraska District is not making recommendations for specific policies and actions. This information is provided only to help congregations should they choose to prepare to contact legal counsel and establish church policies.

In Christ,
Richard L Snow

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard L. Snow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Nebraska District LCMS