

General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

35.5.7.2 Firearms and Weapons

Firearms and other lethal weapons are not allowed on Church property. This includes concealed weapons. This does not apply to current law enforcement officers.

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/general-handbook/35?lang=eng&id=title_number52-p254#title_number52

[Index](#)

Utah Code

[Title 76](#)

Utah Criminal Code

[Chapter 11](#)

Weapons

[Part 2](#)

General Weapons Violations

Section 219

Trespass with a firearm in a house of worship or a private residence.
(Effective 5/7/2025)

76-11-219. Trespass with a firearm in a house of worship or a private residence.

- (1) Terms defined in Sections [76-1-101.5](#), [76-11-101](#), and [76-11-201](#) apply to this section.
- (2) An actor is guilty of trespass with a firearm in a house of worship or a private residence if the actor:
 - (a) has been given notice as described in Subsection (4) that firearms are prohibited in the house of worship or the private residence; and
 - (b) knowingly and intentionally:
 - (i) transports a firearm into the house of worship or private residence; or

- (ii) while in possession of a firearm, enters or remains in the house of worship or private residence.

(3) A violation of Subsection (2) is an infraction.

(4) Notice that firearms are prohibited may be given by:

(a) personal communication to the actor by:

- (i) the church or organization operating the house of worship;
- (ii) the owner, lessee, or person with lawful right of possession of the private residence; or
- (iii) a person with authority to act for the person or entity in Subsections (4)(a)(i) and (ii);

(b) posting of signs reasonably likely to come to the attention of persons entering the house of worship or private residence;

(c) announcement, by a person with authority to act for the church or organization operating the house of worship, in a regular congregational meeting in the house of worship;

(d) publication in a bulletin, newsletter, worship program, or similar document generally circulated or available to the members of the congregation regularly meeting in the house of worship; or

(e) publication:

(i) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the house of worship is located or the church or organization operating the house of worship has its principal office in this state; and

(ii) as required in Section 45-1-101.

(5) A church or organization operating a house of worship and giving notice that firearms are prohibited may:

- (a) revoke the notice, with or without supersedure, by giving further notice in any manner provided in Subsection (4); and
 - (b) provide or allow exceptions to the prohibition as the church or organization considers advisable.
- (6) (a) (i) Within 30 days of giving or revoking any notice pursuant to Subsection (4)(c), (d), or (e), a church or organization operating a house of worship shall notify the division on a form and in a manner as the division shall prescribe.
- (ii) The division shall post on its website a list of the churches and organizations operating houses of worship who have given notice under Subsection (6)(a)(i).
- (b) Any notice given pursuant to Subsection (4)(c), (d), or (e) shall remain in effect until revoked or for a period of one year from the date the notice was originally given, whichever occurs first.
- (7) This section does not permit an owner who has granted the lawful right of possession to a renter or lessee to restrict the renter or lessee from lawfully possessing a firearm in the residence.

https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter11/76-11-S219.html?v=C76-11-S219_2025050720250507

Utah Department of Public Safety

Houses of Worship Prohibiting Firearms on Premises

The following churches have notified BCI of their intent to prohibit firearms in their “houses of worship” in Utah.

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Wasatch Presbyterian Church

Instructions for notifying the Bureau of Criminal Identification of your intent to prohibit firearms.

Read [Utah Code 76-11-219](#) regarding the prohibition of firearms by Utah houses of worship.

Per state statute, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made public notice on February 16, 2025 and February 23, 2025 in the Salt Lake Tribune also February 21, 2025 and February 28, 2025 in the Deseret News of their intent to prohibit firearms.

<https://bci.utah.gov/concealed-firearm/general-information/houses-of-worship-prohibiting-firearms-on-premises/#:~:text=Instructions%20for%20notifying%20the%20Bureau,their%20intent%20to%20prohibit%20firearms.>

[Index](#)

Utah Code

[Title 76](#)

Utah Criminal Code

[Chapter 3](#)

Punishments

[Part 1](#)

Classification of Offenses

Section 105

Infractions.

76-3-105. Infractions.

(1) Infractions are not classified.

(2) Any offense which is an infraction within this code is expressly designated and any offense defined outside this code which is not designated as a felony or misdemeanor and for which no penalty is specified is an infraction.

[https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter3/76-3-S105.html#:~:text=Infractions.,-\(1\)&text=Infractions%20are%20not%20classified.&text=Any%20offense%20which%20is%20an,is%20specified%20is%20an%20infraction.](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter3/76-3-S105.html#:~:text=Infractions.,-(1)&text=Infractions%20are%20not%20classified.&text=Any%20offense%20which%20is%20an,is%20specified%20is%20an%20infraction.)

[Index](#)

Utah Code

[Title 76](#)

Utah Criminal Code

[Chapter 3](#)

Punishments

[Part 3](#)

Fines and Special Sanctions

Section 301

Fines of individuals.

(Effective 5/3/2023)

Effective 5/3/2023

76-3-301. Fines of individuals.

(1) An individual convicted of an offense may be sentenced to pay a fine, not exceeding:

(a) \$10,000 for a felony conviction of the first degree or second degree;

(b) \$5,000 for a felony conviction of the third degree;

(c) \$2,500 for a class A misdemeanor conviction;

(d) \$1,000 for a class B misdemeanor conviction;

(e) \$750 for a class C misdemeanor conviction or infraction conviction; and

(f) any greater amounts specifically authorized by statute.

(2) (a) An individual convicted of a misdemeanor or infraction and sentenced to pay a fine may not be charged by a court:

(i) notwithstanding Section [15-1-4](#), interest on the judgment that in the aggregate is more than 25% of the initial fine; or

(ii) that issues an order to show cause under Section [78B-6-317](#) for failure to pay the fine, interest that is more than 25% of the initial fine.

(b) An individual convicted only of an infraction and sentenced to pay a fine may not be charged:

- (i) by the Office of State Debt Collection, late fees and interest that in the aggregate are more than 25% of the initial fine; or
 - (ii) by a third-party debt contractor of the Office of State Debt Collection, additional fees.
- (3) Subsection [\(2\)](#) does not apply to a case that includes:
 - (a) victim restitution; or
 - (b) a felony conviction, even if that felony conviction is later reduced.
- (4) This section does not apply to a corporation, association, partnership, government, or governmental instrumentality.

Amended by Chapter [113](#), 2023 General Session

[https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter3/76-3-S301.html?v=C76-3-S301_2019051420190701#76-3-301\(1\)](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter3/76-3-S301.html?v=C76-3-S301_2019051420190701#76-3-301(1))

Security Resources and Safety Guidelines at Church

To: Stake, Mission, and District Presidencies; Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies;
Members of Stake and Ward Councils and Their Presidencies

Copies: General Authorities; General Officers; Area Seventies; Communication Directors

From: Church Security Department

Our meetinghouses are sacred spaces where all should feel welcome and safe to connect with our Savior Jesus Christ and with each other. Following the recent tragic events in Michigan, as well as the changing security climate globally, we reiterate that people feeling welcome and safe in sacred spaces is a top priority.

As leaders, you are encouraged to regularly review the [Church Security Resources page](#) available in the Help Center and discuss safety with your ward and stake councils. As you do so, consider the following:

- Follow the guidance of the Spirit as you implement established policies and procedures.
- Be aware of your surroundings. If you notice anything unusual, notify law enforcement.
- Only unlock necessary entrance doors and clearly communicate which doors are unlocked to attendees.
- Stay with another person or in a group and walk together to the parking lot following activities.
- Build working relationships with emergency response personnel.
- Have emergency response procedures in place that include active shooter training.

For emergencies, call your local designated emergency number (911, 999, 0, etc.). In the United States and Canada, questions regarding these guidelines, security training for members, specialized security assignments, or security incidents should be directed to local leaders and to the Church Security Department (1-801-240-2661 or toll free at 1-844-537-7000). In all other areas, questions should be directed to the Area Security Manager (ASM), the Director for Temporal Affairs (DTA), or local leaders.

We hope this guidance will help you be prepared to properly react to disruptive, violent, and/or unlawful situations at Church meetings and events.