



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van T. Mitchell, Secretary*

TO: DHMH Program Directors, CEOs, Local Health Officers, and HR Officers  
FROM: Van T. Mitchell, Secretary   
DATE: April 20, 2016  
RE: Adoption of DGS Firearm Regulation

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide further clarification to a July 17, 2015 memorandum about the Department's posture on the possession and use of firearms on its property.

Effective on the date of distribution of the memorandum, DHMH will apply the regulation promulgated by the Department of General Services to all of its properties and to all of its employees and visitors. The regulation reads as follows:

Except for official purposes and by authorized personnel, an individual on the property may not carry open or concealed firearms, explosives, incendiary devices, or dangerous or deadly weapons. (COMAR 04.05.01.03 B)

For the application of this regulation, the Department recognizes the following definitions:

"Property" means State public buildings, improvements, grounds, and multiservice centers under the jurisdiction of the Department of General Services and any land, building, or appurtenant fixture or structure owned, leased, or managed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, including, but not limited to, all DHMH administrative and technical buildings, all DHMH hospital and residential facilities, all County Health Departments, all Boards and Commissions, all adjacent parking lots or structures, and any other location at which an employee of the Department performs work for the Department.

"Authorized personnel" are defined as 1) A Police Officer in uniform, acting in his/her official capacity, and/or who is on official duty and representing his/her Agency, and 2) A Police Officer not in uniform, who is acting in his/her official capacity as a representative of his/her Agency.

“Official purposes” are those purposes specifically enumerated in an employee’s job description, an employee’s labor contract, and/or a lawful order from authorized personnel of a superior rank.

If an employee of the Department is working at a work site over which the Department lacks regulatory authority, the Department’s employee shall nonetheless adhere to the aforementioned regulation. However, nothing in this regulation shall be construed as to prevent the employee from observing more stringent standards at that work site, if applicable.

As indicated in the memorandum of July 17, 2015, the DHMH firearm policy from 1974 is no longer in effect. Please disregard it.

Thank you for your continued efforts to promote safety at our facilities. Should you have any questions, you may contact Alex Doring – [alex.doring@maryland.gov](mailto:alex.doring@maryland.gov) or 410-767-1493.