

Laws for Folder Type Knives

Last Updated 5/5/17

[How to measure blade length.](#)

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A good place to start in your search of City/County Ordinances is [Municode](#)

In many states Knife Laws are not well defined. Some states say very little about knives. We have put together **information on carrying a folding type knife in your pocket.** We consider carrying a knife in this fashion as being concealed. We are not attorneys and post this information as a starting point for you to take up the search even more. Case Law may have a huge influence on knife laws in all the states. Case Law is even harder to find references to. It up to you to know the law. Definitions for the different types of knives are at the bottom of the listing. Almost exclusively all places ban Switchblades, Gravity, Ballistic, Butterfly, Balisong, Dirk, Gimlet, Stiletto and Toothpick Knives.

State	Law Title/Chapt/Sec	Legal Yes/No Folder/Length	Short description from the law. Wording edited to fit. Click on state or city name for more information
Montana	45-8-316, 45-8-317, 45-8-331.	None	Effective Oct. 1, 2017 Knife concealed no longer considered a deadly weapon per MT Statue as per HB251 (2017)
Billings, MT	18-204	?	Prohibition of weapons, firearms, and destructive devices at city council meetings.
Bozeman, MT	24.07.160	Y <4"	It is unlawful for any person to purposely or knowingly carry, concealed or unconcealed, knife having a blade 4 inches long or longer
Butte-Silver Bow CO.	9.28.030 & 9.28.040	Y <4"	It is unlawful for any person to purposely or knowingly carry, concealed or unconcealed, knife having a blade 4 inches long or longer
Libby, MT	9.92.010	Y <4"	It is unlawful for any person to purposely or knowingly carry, concealed or unconcealed, knife having a blade 4 inches long or longer
Livingston, MT	Sec. 10-19.2	Y <4"	Weapon" means a knife having a blade four (4) inches in length or longer,
Miles City, MT	16-45	Y <4"	It is unlawful for any person to purposely or knowingly carry, concealed or unconcealed, knife having a blade 4 inches long or longer
Stevensville, MT	Sec. 16-241	Y <4"	Weapon" means a knife having a blade four (4) inches in length or longer,
West Yellowstone	Chapter 9.20	Y <4"	any knife having a blade four inches long or longer in a school, town, public building, public gathering.

Nebraska	28-1201. & 28-1202	Y 3.5"	(4) Knife shall mean any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over three and one-half inches in length or any other dangerous instrument capable of inflicting cutting/stabbing/tearing wounds; (Read laws Case Law applies)
Omaha, NE	20-192 & 20-206	?	Unlawful to carry concealed. Permit to carry voids unlawful carry.
Nebraska City, NE	24-89.	?	Must have NE Permit to Carry to Carry any Concealed Knife.
North Platte, NE	93.05	?	No weapons of any kind in any park, pathways or other recreation facilities.
South Sioux City, NE	66-377	>4"	a weapon concealed on or about his person any knife or edged weapon fixed or folding and a blade length in excess of four inches

Nevada	202.320 & 202.350 & 202.355 202.265 & 202.350	Y ?	Knife carry is legal. Cities can have much strickter knife laws than state. See NV & City/County Law for details.
Clark Co. NV.	12.04.180	Y <3"	concealed weapon of any description, including a knife with a blade of three inches
Henderson, NV	8.98.010	Y <3"	including a knife with a blade of three inches or more,
Las Vegas, NV.	10.70.010	Y <3"	(B) Any knife with a blade three inches or more in length;
N. Las Vegas, NV	9.32.040	Y <3"	knife with a blade three inches or more in length
Reno, NV	8.23.140. 8.12.160	Y <2"	While carrying in a Park/Recreation area a Dangerous knife means a knife having a blade that is 2" or more In Reno Municipal Court while in possession of a weapon or instrumentality capable of being used as a dangerous weapon.

New Hampshire			May 18, 2010 Governor Lynch signed into law HB1665 which took effect immediately! New Hampshire now has absolutely no knife laws which stop law abiding citizens from buying, selling, owning, carrying, transporting, collecting, or lawfully using any type of knife!
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New Jersey	2C-39-1 & 2C-39-3 thru 2C-39-6 & 2C-39-9.1	Y <5"	Dagger/Dirk/Stiletto, Auto, Gravity, or Ballistic Knife, are illegal by law. You must explain lawful purpose for carrying any other knife. NJ Police have been know to consider most knives as illegal.
Elizabeth, NJ	2.96.010		During Declared Emergency Prohibit sale/carrying/possession on public street/sidewalks/public park weapons, including knives
Glen Ridge, NJ	9.24.010	?	carry without lawful authority..... dangerous knife,
Hamilton, NJ	98-1	?	Carry or possess or any other form of weapons potentially harmful to wildlife and dangerous to human safety
Randolph, NJ	34-34	?	No person in any public park or recreation area shall: carry any weapons
Sayureville Bor. NJ	5-11		carrying or possession on the public street or public sidewalks, or in any public park or square any Knife

New Mexico	30-1-12. & 30-7-2. & 30-7-8	Y None	any weapon which is capable of producing death or great bodily harm, including but not restricted to any types of daggers, brass knuckles, switchblade knives, bowie knives, poniards, butcher knives, dirk knives and all such weapons with which dangerous cuts can be given, or with which dangerous thrusts can be inflicted, including sword canes, and any kind of sharp pointed canes, also slingshots, slung shots, bludgeons; or any other weapons with which dangerous wounds can be inflicted; (Switchblades, Gravity Knives, Springs knives are illegal.
Bernalillo Co., NM	58-57	Yes >5"	knife with blade over five inches long or any other form of weapon harmful to human or animal in any open space,
Eunice, NM	74-368	Yes >4"	Possession/use of lock-blade knives with a blade length not exceeding four inches

New York	265.00 & 265.01 - 265.04. - 265.10 - 265.15	Y None	Switchblades and gravity knives are illegal. Other knives only illegal when carried with intent to do harm etc. No Length limit in NY Laws Knife Rights is reporting majority of pocketknives will result in arrest, aggressive prosecution of knife owners, over 60,000 to date
New York City	§ 10-133	Y <4"	NYC has been charging people for any type folding knife stating they are Gravity Knives. Use Caution
Rochester	47-2	Y 3"	other than a folding pocketknife with no blade more than three inches in length;

North Carolina	14-269(d) & 14-269.2(d)	Y None	does not apply to an ordinary pocket knife carried in a closed position. As used in this section, "ordinary pocket knife" means a small knife, designed for carrying in a pocket or purse, that has its cutting edge and point entirely enclosed by its handle, and that may not be opened by a throwing, explosive, or spring action. No Length limit in NC Laws.
Asheville, NC	12-42.	Yes ?	in any park or other city-owned facility any knife, other than an ordinary pocket knife, which means a small knife, designed for carrying in a pocket/purse
Brevard, NC	42-14.	Yes ?	in any park or other city-owned facility any knife, other than an ordinary pocket knife, which means a small knife, designed for carrying in a pocket/purse
Buncombe Co. NC	54-10.		possessing knife in a county park or county owned/operated recreational facility is unlawful.
Cabarrus, Co. NC	50-4.		possessing any weapon in the reasonable opinion of authorities/park officials can be used as a weapon (Knife)
Cary, NC	24-10.	Y 3"	No person shall carry a knife upon his person having a blade of three inches or longer in Parks/Recreation Areas.
Catawba Co. NC	20-99.		In Parks/Recreation Areas any knife or instrument capable of causing serious bodily injury designed for use as a weapon;
Charlotte, NC	15-14.	Y 3.5"	Dangerous Weapons: Possession of knives of any kind or type having a blade in excess of 3 1/2 inches in length,
Cherokee Indians			Any school building/bus/campus/grounds/recreational area/athletic field or other property owned/used/operated by

Conover, NC	16-14.	Y 3"	in a parade or street event no knives of any kind or any type having a blade in excess of 3"
Cumberland Co. NC	9.5.65		possession or use in a county park/county owned or operated recreational facility is unlawful. The term "weapons" includes, Knives
Dobson, NC	22-91	Y 3"	During Parades/Demonstrations including, knives of any kind or type having a blade in excess of 3 inches
Durham Co. NC	46-22	Y ?	Weapon: shall not mean ordinary pocket knife designed for carrying in pocket/purse edge/point enclosed by handle Unlawful to possess a dangerous weapon while on or in city property
Eastern Band, NC	14-34.1.		any board of education, school, college or university.
Fayetteville, NC	24-282.	Y 3"	about his person or vehicle knives with a blade more than three inches in length
Gaston Co. NC	12-4.		possessing any weapon in the reasonable opinion of authorities/park officials can be used as a weapon (Knife)
Gastonia, NC	7-52.	Y <3"	On Parks and Greenways no person shall carry a knife having a blade of three inches or longer
Greensboro, NC	18-25		Weapon: shall not mean ordinary pocket knife designed for carrying in pocket/purse edge/point enclosed by handle
High Point, NC	10-1-271	Y 3"	Dangerous Weapon: knives of any kind or any type having a blade in excess of three (3) inches in length,
Hyde Co. NC	34-25.	Y 3"	At Parades knives of any kind or any type having a blade in excess of 3"
Kernersville, NC	20-15.		No person shall carry a knife or any other lethal weapon in a City park or recreation Area
Kinston, NC	16-2.		No person shall carry a knife or any other lethal weapon in a City park or recreation Area
Lexington, NC	Sec. 14-8		not apply to an ordinary pocket knife carried in a closed position. , "ordinary pocket knife" means a small knife, designed for carrying in a pocket, which has its cutting edge/point fully enclosed by its handle
Lumberton, NC	14-322.		Parade or public assembly no person shall possess a weapon. Weapon: shall not mean ordinary pocket knife designed for carrying in pocket/purse edge/point enclosed by handle
Marion, NC	11-15.	Y 3"	to carry or use any knife, with a blade of over 3" in length, anywhere within the corporate limits of the city.
Morehead City, NC	15-89.	Y 3"	in a parade or street event no knives of any kind or any type having a blade in excess of 3"
Orange Co. NC	18-151. & 8-6	Y 4"	possession of knife on county property/county facility is prohibited / A pocket knife with a blade >4" that provides for its point and cutting edge to be entirely enclosed by handle is not a knife,
Raleigh, NC	12-1060.	Y 3"	On person/Vehicle knife over 3"
Reidsville, NC	11-45.	Y 3"	in a parade or street event no knives of any kind or any type having a blade in excess of 3"
Spring Lake, NC	34-151	Y 3"	At a Parade knives of any kind or any type having a blade in excess of three inches in length
Smithfield, NC	12-99.		carrying or use of knives or weapons of any character upon the recreation areas is prohibited,

North Dakota	62.1-01-01 & 62.1-04-02	Y <5"	or knife with a blade of five inches [12.7 centimeters] or more
Minot, ND	23-66.		possess a knife with a blade larger than 3" on premises licensed for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages.

N. Marianas	Title 6 General Provisions 102		Dangerous weapon" means any knife, machete, or other things by which a fatal wound or injury may be inflicted.
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Ohio	2923.11 & 2923.12. & - 2923.20 Many cities have 2 1/2" length Max.	Y None	Ballistic Knife, Switchblade Knife, Spring blade Knife, Gravity Knife, or similar weapon are illegal. ;An ordinary pocket knife that is not possessed, carried or used as a weapon is not a "deadly weapon" No Blade Length in OH Laws.
Akron, OH	137.02	Y 2.5"	on or about his person a pistol, a knife having a blade two and one-half inches
Highland Hts, OH	549.11	Y 2.5"	or any knife having a blade two and one-half inches in length or longer,
Bay Village, OH	549.12	Y 2.5"	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,
Cincinnati, OH	Sec. 7. Emergency Orders		Prohibit/restrict the carrying or possession on the public streets or public sidewalks or in any public park or square or any other public place a weapon including but not limited to firearms, bows and arrows, air rifles, sling shots, knives,

Cleveland, OH	§ 627.10	Y 2.5"	No person shall knowingly carry, have in his or her possession or ready at hand any knife having a blade (2-1/2) inches
Dayton, OH	138.02	?	Must show affirmative defense for carrying weapon.
Strongsville, OH	672.11	Y 2.5"	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,
Cuyahoga Falls, OH	549.1	Y 2.5"	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,
Warrensville Hts. OH	741.07	Y 2.5"	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,
Lyndurst, OH	672.13	Y 2.5"	in his or her possession any knife having a blade length of more than two and one-half inches
Rocky River	549.06	Y 2.5"	any knife having a blade two and one-half (2½) inches in length or longer
Tallmadge, OH	549.13	Y 2.5"	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,
Summit Co. OH	549.09	Y 2.5"	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,

Oklahoma	21-1272	Y None	unlawful to carry upon or about person, or in a purse or other container belonging to the person, any blackjack, loaded cane, billy, hand chain, metal knuckles, or any other offensive weapon, whether such weapon be concealed or unconcealed
Lawton, OK	16-4-4-451	Y 6"	As used in this article "Dangerous or deadly weapon" includes other knife with a blade which exceeds six (6) inches
Muskogee, OK	13-421 & 13-422	Y 6"	"Dangerous or deadly weapon" includes any knife with a blade which exceeds six (6) inches
Nichols Hills, OK	15-148.		carry upon his person/vehicle any knife offensive or defensive weapon except permitted by state law.
Norman, OK	15-504.	Y 4"	Any knife having a blade length exceeding four (4) inches
Oklahoma City, OK	30-311. & 30-302.	Y 4"	offer for sale or exhibit any pocket knife having a blade longer than four inches.
Tulsa, OK	1514 & 103.		The proper use of knives hunting/fishing/recreational purposes; capable of inflicting injury in Parks/Malls/Plazas

Oregon	161.015 & 166.24	Y None	"Dangerous weapon" means any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance which under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury. Any person who carries concealed upon the person any knife having a blade that projects or swings into position by force of a spring or by centrifugal force, any dirk, dagger, or any similar instrument by the use of which Injury could be inflicted upon the person or property of any other person, No Blade Length In OR Laws.
Hillsboro, OR	9.12.010 & 12.36.040	?	are prohibited within the Civic Center Block any knife sharpened on both edges; (ordinary pocket knife, OK)
Carlton, OR	9.02.005		It is unlawful for any person to carry concealed about his person, in any manner, or any knife (other than an ordinary pocket knife)
Enterprise, OR	9.28.020		It is unlawful for any person to carry concealed about his person, in any manner, or any knife (other than an ordinary pocket knife)
Independence, OR	Sec. 18-233		"ordinary pocket knife" is one with a maximum blade length of three and one-half inches,
Lebanon, OR	9.20.010	Y <3.5"	other than an ordinary pocket knife with a blade less than three and one-half inches long
Ontario, OR	6/1/2021		It shall be unlawful for any person to carry concealed about his person in any manner, any knife, other than an ordinary pocketknife
Troutdale, OR	9.48.010	Y <3.5"	an ordinary pocketknife with a blade less than three and one-half inches long

Pennsylvania	C.S.A. 18.908. & 24 P.S. 13-1317.2	Y None	"Offensive weapons." dagger, knife, razor or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, or otherwise, or other implement for the infliction of serious bodily injury which serves no common lawful purpose. No Blade Length in PA Laws.
Philadelphia, PA	10-820	No	Any knife or other cutting instrument which can be used as a weapon. Knife Rights is reporting all knives are illegal to carry except when actually in use on the job.
Monessen, PA	§ 275-13	No	Possess any type of knife, hatchet or ax unless engaged in picnicking for appropriate use.

Puerto Rico	25-Sub 1-Part V-Chpt 51A Sub V- § 458d	? ?	25-Sub 1-Part V-Chpt 51A-Sub V- § 458d Any person who without justified motive, uses against another person . . . knives . . . Any person who possesses, carries, or conveys any of the weapons listed herein for their use as instruments proper to an art, sport, profession, occupation, trade or due to any health condition, or disability, or defenselessness, is excluded from the application of this section. (Looks Like you have to be able to justify carrying any knife)
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Rhode Island	11-47-42	Y 3"	Dagger, Dirk, Stiletto, Bowie Knife are only prohibited if you have intent to use unlawfully against another.
North Kingstown, RI	12-14.		unlawful to carry any gun, knife, utilized as a weapon while participating in a picket line or group demonstration
South Kingstown, RI	12.1-7.	Y 3"	unlawful for any person in a public park or recreation area to carry Knife over 3"

South Carolina	16-23-430 & 16-23-490	Y None	a knife with a blade over two inches long, and on school property
Aiken Co. SC	2-535.		Prohibited weapons include any form of weapon restricted under local, state or federal regulation. This includes all illegal knives
Belton, SC	26-126	Y	unlawful for any person within the city to possess or conceal upon his person any knife, measuring seven inches or greater in length
Cayce, SC	28-113.	Y 3"	It shall be unlawful for any person to carry on or about his person, concealed or not concealed, case knife six inches or longer
Charleston, SC	21-215.	Y 3"	unlawful for any person to carry concealed any knife the blade of which exceeds three (3) inches in length.
Colleton Co. SC	12.12.010		prohibits on and within its property possession or use of unsafe items This includes, but is not limited to, knives,
Columbia, SC	14-102.		It shall be unlawful for any person to carry about his person any case knife, within the corporate limits
Fountain Inn, SC	14-58	Y 3"	Possession of a locked blade knife or sporting knife in excess of three inches or greater (See Complete Code)
Greenville, SC	24-261.	Y 3"	Possession of locked blade knife in excess of 3" or greater gives rise to an inference that the device is a weapon
Hampton, SC	38-161.	Y 3"	unlawful within the town to possess or conceal any knife, measuring 7 inches or greater in length either when opened or unopened
Hanahan, SC	9/2/2002	Y 3"	to carry concealed a clasp knife, which has a blade more than three (3) inches
Irmo, SC	22-103.	Y 3"	to carry concealed a clasp knife, which has a blade more than three (3) inches
Moncks Corner, SC	20-143.	Y 3"	to carry concealed a clasp knife, which has a blade more than three (3) inches
Oconee Co, SC	Sec. 2-61		conduct at county meeting facilities/property. Facility means any building/structure/property owned/leased/rented operated/occupied by the county/one of its departments/offices/agencies. Bring, carry, or otherwise introduce any knife with blade longer than 2 inches
Tega Cay, SC	34-162.	Y 4"	Concealed weapons. "weapon" means a knife with a blade over four inches long
Varnville, SC	Sec. 30-71		It shall be unlawful for any person within the town to possess or conceal upon his person any knife measuring seven inches or greater in length either when opened or unopened
Walterboro, SC	20-96		unlawful within the City to possess or conceal any knife, measuring seven inches or greater in length either when opened or unopened

South Dakota	22-1-2	Y None	"Dangerous weapon" or "deadly weapon," any firearm, knife or device, instrument, material or substance, whether animate or inanimate, which is calculated or designed to inflict death or serious bodily harm, or by the manner in which it is used is likely to inflict death or serious bodily harm; No Blade Length in SD Laws.
Aberdeen, SD	4-4.	Y <3"	in his possession while on the premises of any alcohol establishment a folding knife that has a blade 3" or longer
Rapid City, SD	9.28.030	Y 3"	it is unlawful for any person to carry concealed any knife with a blade exceeding 3 inches in length,
Belle Fourche, SD	5.16.081	Y 3"	carrying a folding pocket knife with a blade of no more than three inches which is kept in the closed position where Alcohol served.
Cayce, SC	28-113.		unlawful for any person to carry on or about his person, concealed or not, any case knife six inches or longer

Tennessee	39-17-1397	Y	HB581 Signed 4/13 preempts all local knife laws. They can only have laws that are no more stringent than State Law.
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	39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1310	No Length limit starting 7/1/2014	"Knife" means any bladed hand instrument that is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by cutting or stabbing a person with the instrument; A person commits an offense who carries with the intent to go armed a firearm, a knife Starting 7/1/14 No Length Limit. Law reads A person commits an offense who carries, with the intent to go armed, SB1771
Texas	Penal Code 46.01 thru 46.06 229.001 TX preempts all local Knife Laws. No Local Authority can have Knife Laws more restrictive than the state law.	Y 5 1/2"	(6) "Illegal knife" means a: (A) knife with a blade over five and one-half inches; (B) hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; "Knife" means any bladed hand instrument that is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by cutting or stabbing a person with the instrument.
Utah	76-10-501. & 76-10-504 HB 271 was signed by Governor and Utah now has preemption for knife laws. No local authority can have laws on knives more restrictive than state law. New law goes into effect about 7/1/11	Y None	"Dangerous weapon" means any item that in the manner of its use or intended use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. The following factors shall be used in determining whether a knife, or any other item, object, or thing not commonly known as a dangerous weapon is a dangerous weapon: (i) the character of the instrument, object, or thing; (ii) the character of the wound produced, if any; (iii) the manner in which the instrument, object, or thing was used; and (iv) the other lawful purposes for which the instrument, object, or thing may be used. See Law.
Moab, UT	9.28.020	No	shall carry any ...knife, dirk or other concealed deadly weapon
Vermont	13-85-4003 & 13-85-4013	Y None	A person who carries a dangerous or deadly weapon, openly or concealed, with the intent or avowed purpose of injuring a fellow man. VT allows carry of concealed weapons unless you are out to hurt someone.
Virgin Islands	14-113-2251	? ?	
Virginia	18.2-308 & 18.2-308.1 & 18.2-311	Y 3?	dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, razor are illegal. Knives in schools are illegal except for a pocket knife with a metal blade of less than three inches. See state law. In Court knives as short as 3 1/2 are weapons.
Amherst Co. VA	25-Dec	Y 3"	in any park to have in his possession any knife with a blade of more than three (3) inches
Ashland, VA	12-Dec	Y 3 1/4"	hidden from common observation, clasp knife having a blade more than (3 1/4) inches in length,
Chesterfield, Co. VA	15-210	Y 3"	to operate a taxicab at any time with a knife with a blade longer than 3"
Culpeper Co. VA	10B-34.	Y <3"	In Parks and Recreation facilities Knives with blades of three (3) or more inches in length are prohibited except for food preparation
Danville, VA	39-31. & 23-52.		to operate a taxicab at any time with a knife with a blade longer than 3" / No Knife on buses and at bus stops
Falls Church, VA	Sec. 28-200	Y 3"	or knife with a blade longer than three inches
Farmville, VA	18-48	Y 3 1/4"	to have in his possession a clasp knife having a blade more than three and one-quarter (3 1/4) inches
Fauquier Co. VA	16-7		for any person to use, carry or have in his possession any knife with a blade of more than 3" in any park.
Hanover Co. VA	22.1-47.		operate and drive a for-hire car with a knife with a blade longer than three (3) inches in length in his possession,
Henrico Co. VA	21-139.		operate and drive a for-hire car with a knife with a blade longer than three (3) inches in length in his possession,
Manassas, VA	102-42.		At Public Gatherings, Parades Etc. object with a sharp point or edge, except a knife with a blade of less than three inches.
Norfolk, VA	47-6.		on any public/private/parochial/elementary/middle/high school, including buildings & grounds, W/blade 3" or longer
Norfolk School Board			Carrying, bringing, using, or possessing any knife or dangerous or deadly weapon in any school building,

Orange, VA			Illegal for a Taxi Cab Driver to Possess a knife with a blade longer than three inches in length
Petersburg, VA	74-207.		on any public/private/parochial/elementary/middle/high school, including buildings & grounds, W/blade 3" or longer
Prince Edward Co.	62-88	Y 3 1/4"	possess, offer for sale, or sell any clasp knife having a blade more than 3¼ inches in length.
Pulaski, VA	70-132.		Parades/Rallies/Noncommercial Gatherings No participant shall carry knives/edged weapons, either openly or concealed.
Richmond, VA	66-347.	Y 3 1/4"	knife having a blade more than 3 1/4 inches in length./ drive a taxicab with a blade longer than three inches
Strasburg, VA	54-323		On School property any knife having a metal blade of three inches or longer
Tazewell, VA	16-79.		Participants shall not possess knives or weapons of any type or kind, during the parade/point of assembly/point of disbursement.

Washington	9.41.250 9.41.270	Y None	See State Law. No Blade Length in WA Law.
Aberdeen, WA	9.02.020	Y < 3"	any knife, sword, dagger or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more
Arlington, WA	9.48.030	Y < 3"	Carry any knife, sword, dagger or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more,
Bainbridge Island	9.10.040	Y < 3"	Carry any knife, sword, dagger or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more,
Benton City, WA	9.44.010	Y >4"	or any knife the blade of which is in excess of four inches
Brewster, WA	9.36.010	Y <4"	carry any knife with a blade of a length of four or more inches whether such weapon is concealed or not,
Bridgeport, WA	9.84.020		state liquor control board as off-limits to persons under twenty-one years of age to: Carry any Knife
Camas, WA	9.28.065	Y 3.5"	knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches in length
Carnation, WA	9.16.040	Y 3"	knife with a blade exceeding three inches in length
Centralia, WA	10.23.030	Y <3"	state liquor control board as off-limits to persons under twenty-one years of age to: Carry any Knife. Or carry any knife 3" or more
Chelan, WA	9.18.040	Y <3"	Carry any knife, sword, dagger or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more,
Chelan Co. WA	7.22.010	Y <4"	"Deadly weapon" shall be defined any knife having a blade longer than the length of four or more inches
Cheney, WA	9A.07.020	Y ?	carry concealed upon his person any knife (other than an ordinary pocket knife)
Clark Co. WA	9.05.010	Y 3"	or any knife having a blade longer than three (3) inches,
Connell, WA	9.28.010	Y <3.5"	any knife (excepting a pocket knife or pen knife, having a blade less than three and one-half inches long),
Des Moines, WA	9.36.030	Y <3"	on/in a premises where alcoholic beverages are dispensed by the drink to: Carry a knife with a blade of a length of 3" or more,
East Wenatchee, WA	9.20.040	Y <3"	Carry any knife, with a blade of a length of three inches or more, whether concealed or not;
Edmonds, WA	5.24.012	Y <3.5"	knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches
Ellensburg, WA	7.12.010	Y 3"	"Dangerous knife" means any knife having a blade more than three inches in length,
Ephrata, WA	9.22.020	Y <4"	with a blade of a length of four or more inches
Everett, WA	10.78.010	Y <3"	"Dangerous knife" means any knife having a blade more than three inches in length
Federal Way, WA	6-138	Y <3"	knife, sword, dagger or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more
Issaquah, WA	9.10.040	Y <3"	where alcoholic beverages are dispensed by the drink to: Carry any knife , with a blade of a length of 3 inches or more
Kent City, WA	9.02.350	Y 3"	it shall be unlawful for any person to possess knife with a blade in excess of three (3) inches;
La Center, WA	9.50.010	Y >3.5"	"Dangerous knife" means any knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches in length,
Lake Stevens, WA	9.48.030	Y <3"	alcoholic beverages are dispensed by the drink to: Carry any knife with a blade of a length of three inches or more
Lake Forest Park	9.06.020	Y ?	Weapons prohibited in the municipal courtroom with a blade length of three or longer.
Long Beach, WA	8/4/2002		It is unlawful for any person to possess any knife or dangerous weapon within Culbertson park.
Lynnwood, WA	10.52.020	Y 3.5"	knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches
Mukilteo, WA	9.38.020	Y 3.5"	or any knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches in length,
New Castle, WA	9.05.710		premises where alcoholic beverages are dispensed a Knife with a blade, of a length of three inches or more,

Normandy Park, WA	7.24.040		carry or conceal any dagger, dirk, knife or other dangerous weapon
Port Orchard, WA	9.36.010	Y 3"	"Dangerous knife" means any fixed-blade knife and any other knife having a blade of more than three and one-half inches in length.
Redmond, WA	9.24.040	Y <3"	Liquor Control Board as off-limits to under 21 years of age, to: any knife, with a blade length of 3" or more is concealed or not;
Renton, WA	6/18/2013	Y <3"	Carry any knife with a blade of a length of three inches (3") or more,
Richland, WA	9.26.010	Y 4"	to carry or wear concealed upon his person, or concealed in any vehicle, any knife the blade of which is in excess of four inches,
Sultan, WA	9.32.020	Y <4"	having a blade longer than the length of four or more inches,
Seattle, WA	12A.14.010	Y 3.5"	"Dangerous knife" means any fixed-blade knife and any other knife having a blade more than (3 1/2") in length
Sumas, WA	8.44.180		have in his possession any instrument or weapon of the knife, or other dangerous weapon;
Tacoma, WA	8.66.010	Y 3.5"	"Dangerous knife" means any knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches in length
Tonasket, WA	9.24.020	Y <4"	where alcoholic beverages sale for on-premises consumption to carry any knife with a blade of 4 or more inches, concealed or not.
Westport, WA	9.56.040		any knife (other than an ordinary pocket knife)
West Richland, WA	9.36.010	Y 4"	carry or wear concealed upon his person, or concealed in any vehicle, a weapon, any knife the blade of which is in excess of 4"
Woodinville, WA	9.03.110	Y <3"	Weapons prohibited on liquor sale premises any knife with a blade of a length of three inches or more
Yakima, WA	6.44.010	Y 3.5"	"Dangerous knife" means: Any knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches in length
Yelm, WA	9.32.140	Y 3.5"	any other knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches in length.

West Virginia	61-7-2	Y 3.5"	See State Law
Beckley, WV	10-46. & 10-47.	Y 3.5"	a blade over three and one-half (3 1/2) inches in length,
Hurricane, WV	545.01.	Y 3.5"	A pocket knife with a blade 3 1/2 inches or less in length, shall not be included within the term "knife"
Parkersburg, WV	549.01	Y 3.5"	with a blade over three and one-half inches in length,

Wisconsin	941.240 thru 941.24	Y None	66.0409 Preemption by state law prohibits cities from having ord/rules more stringent than state law.
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Wyoming	6-1-104 & 6-8-104	Y None	"Deadly weapon" means but is not limited to a firearm, explosive or incendiary material, motorized vehicle, an animal or other device, instrument, material or substance, which in the manner it is used or is intended to be used is reasonably capable of producing death or serious bodily injury; No Blade Length in WY Laws.
Casper, WY	9.44.020	Y 4"	folding knife with a blade in excess of four inches from the hilt,
Douglas, WY	9.12.080	Y <5"	any sheath or folding knife having a blade length of five (5) inches or more
Laramie, WY	9.28.010	Y 5"	knife with a blade over five inches long

[**Go to Part 1**](#)

Other Knife Law Links (Not affiliated with Handgunlaw.us nor is Handgunlaw.us responsible for any of their content) These give you a place to start on finding more information on Knives.

[The Truth About Knives](#)

[Bernard Levine Knife Laws](#)

[Knife Rights Org](#)

Is essentially a heavy dagger with a pointed, straight 12-20 inch blade. The "toothpick" is balanced and weighted for throwing and can also be used for thrusting . and slashing

Bowie Knife

The historical Bowie knife was not a single design, but was a series of knives improved several times by Jim Bowie over the years. The version most commonly known as the historical Bowie knife was rather large and of massive construction, as knives go, usually having a blade of at least 6" (15cm) in length, some reaching 12 inches (30cm) or more, with a relatively broad blade that was an inch and a half to two inches wide (4 to 5 cm) and made of steel usually between 3/16" and 1/4" thick (from 4.8 to 6.4 millimeters). The back of the blade often had a strip of soft metal (normally brass or copper) inlaid intended to catch an opponent's blade, a concept borrowed from the medieval Scottish dirk, and also often had an upper guard that bent forward at an angle, also intended to catch an opponent's blade. The back edge of the curved clip point, also called the "false edge," was often sharpened in order to allow someone trained in European techniques of saber fencing to execute the maneuver called the "back cut" or "back slash." A brass quillon was attached to protect the hand, usually cast in a mold. It is likely that the blade shape was derived from the Spanish Navajo clasp knives carried in Spain and the Spanish colonies in the Americas.

Butterfly Knife / Balisong

The Balisong, called a Butterfly knife in the West, and sometimes known as a Batangas knife, is a form of folding pocket knife with two handles that counter-rotate around the tang such that, when closed, the blade is concealed within grooves in the handles. In the hands of a trained user, the knife blade can be brought forth quickly using one hand. Manipulations (flipping) are performed for art or amusement and require great skill. Translated from Tagalog, the word "Balisong" means "Broken Horn" (literally, "baling sungay") as the original Balisongs were made from carved animal horns and recycled knife blades. The name butterfly knife is a term coined in the United States much like "drumbox" for the kahon.

Claspknife

A claspknife is a folding knife, strictly speaking one equipped with some means of holding the blade in the open position when in use, so that it cannot close accidentally on the user's fingers. The term tends to refer to a medium-sized to large knife, and implies a locking mechanism such as a twisting ring or catch that must be released in a distinct action before the knife can be folded, as opposed to the more usual sliding spring which requires only that a sufficient force be applied to the back of the knife in order for it to fold into the handle, and for which the term penknife is normally used. The term lock-knife or lockback knife also exists to make this distinction.

Dirk

Dirk is a Scots word for a long dagger; sometimes a cut-down sword blade mounted on a dagger hilt, rather than a knife blade. Dirks were made with either double-edged or single-edged blades, and there was no standard blade configuration. Reference books covering naval dirks invariably show the popularity of both blade types.

Gravity Knife

A gravity knife is a knife which can be opened solely by the forces of gravity or centripetal force. One method of opening is where the blade exits out the front of the handle point-first and locks into place. Another form is like a switchblade, but instead of a button or spring, the knife is "flipped" out of the handle, and locked into place. To retract the blade back into the handle, a release lever, or linerlock is pressed. Should the knife be equipped with a spring to open the blade, it is then referred to as an Out-The-Front Automatic knife or OTF for short, or a switchblade if it exits out of the side. Knives commonly mistaken for gravity knives include OTF automatic knives, the switchblade and the butterfly knife (or balisong), and occasionally common folding knives (see penny knife).

Gimlet Knife

A gimlet is a weapon that looks like an ice pick and opens like a switchblade knife.

Penknife

A penknife or pen knife is a small folding pocket knife, originally used for cutting a quill to make a pen nib. It may have single or multiple blades and additional tools incorporated into the design. Over the last hundred years there has been a proliferation of multi-function knives with multifarious and often ingenious gadgets including awls, reamers, scissors, nail files, corkscrews, tweezers, toothpicks and so on, and the tradition continues with the incorporation of modern devices such as ballpoint pens, LED torches and USB flash drives. The most famous example of a multi-function knife is the Swiss Army knife, some versions of which number dozens of functions and are really more of a folding multi-tool, incorporating a blade or two, than a penknife with extras.

Jackknife

A large clasp knife. To fold or double. A large knife with one or more folding blades.

Stiletto

- a. A small dagger with a slender, tapering blade.
- b. Something shaped like such a dagger.

Switchblade

There are two basic types of switchblade, side-opening and out-the-front (OTF). A side-opening knife's blade pivots out of the side of the handle (in the same manner as an ordinary folding knife). An out-the-front knife's blade slides directly forward, out of the tip of the handle. There are two types of OTF (out the front) knives: double action and single action.

Double action OTFs allow the user to extend or retract the blade with the press of a sliding button. Spring tension in these knives is actually provided by the movement of the button, which makes them much safer to carry since they will not open accidentally. However, the extra force the spring requires can also make intentional opening more difficult.

Single action OTFs require the user to retract the blade manually and compress the spring. Because they often use a lever to compress the spring, stronger springs can be used. This makes them open more vigorously than the double-action type, and allows them to achieve tighter lock-up.

Updates to this Page

4/9/10 – AR State Law Info Updated.

4/14/10 – File broken into 2 parts to manage size

4/18/10 – CA Knife Length on College/University Property Added

8/11/10 – AZ New Preemption law added

1/10/11 – AR, CO, CT, LA & MS Cities added to their listing. AR, AK, HI, KY, ME, MD, MN & MS No Length Law found in their state laws added. MA, No Carry In Courts. ID More Defined State Law.

2/14/11 – Arkansas Law Statute Updated.

2/22/11 – Georgia State Law on Knives updated.

7/28/11 – MA Entry on Class A License Holders exempt from law added.

11/14/11 – Mobile AL Info Added. Link to Municode added in top header to aid in your search of Local Ordinances.

12/1/11 - Search Info Added at top of page.

3/12/12 - SD State Knife Code Update. Some repealed. All Links checked and updated if needed.

10/26/12- Additional City Entries for MT, NC, NE, NM, OK, OR, SC, TN, TX, VA, WY, WA, Added.

5/24/13 - TN Entry Updated. TN Now Has Knife Preemption.

10/20/13 - Puerto Rico Entry Updated.

11/1/13 - Texas Entry Updated. Switchblades are legal under state law but no preemption for knives. All local ordinances are still in effect.

12/23/13 - Links to other Knife Laws added below State Listings

1/3/14 - The below listed cities added.

Stevensville, MT, Varnville, SC, The Colony, TX, Livingston, MT, Clear Lake Shores, Falls Church, VA, Elizabeth, NJ, Decatur, Orange, VA, Lexington, Denton, Carnation,

WA, Cincinnati, OH, Jacinto City, TX, Chetek, WI, Independence, OR, Magnolia, TX Birchwood, WI, Oconee Co, SC, Wauwatosa, WI

1/17/14 - Aberdeen, Benton City, Bridgeport, Brewster, Chelan, Centralia, Connell, East Wenatchee, Des Moines, Ellensburg, Kent City, Issaquah, Long Beach, Lake Stevens, La Center, Mukilteo, Richland, Renton,

Redmond, Port Orchard, Tonasket, Tacoma, Sumas, Yelm, Yakima, Westport, West Richland, Clark Co, Chelan Co Added to Washington State Listing.

7/7/14 - Tennessee Entry Updated.

7/22/14 - How to Measure Blade Length Link Added.

11/21/14 - Rocky River OH and Cleveland OH Added.

9/1/15 - TX Now Preempts All Local Knife Laws. TX Entry Updated.

11/1/15 - Oklahoma Entry Updated.

2/10/16 - Wisconsin Entry Updated. State now has preemption of all knife laws.

1/10/17 - Cheyenne WY entry removed. They repealed their law concerning knives.

5/5/17 - Montana State Statute Change Noted on Montana Entry.