

# Part 2

[Go to Part 1](#)

## Knife Laws

Last Updated 5/23/10  
www.handgunlaw.us

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 has 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.	Y <4"	knife having a blade 4 inches long or longer, (Not considered a Deadly Weapon)
<a href="#">West Yellowstone</a>	<a href="#">Chapter 9.20</a>	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, or tearing wounds;
Nevada	202.320 & 202.350 & 202.355	Y ?	Knife carry is legal but very little definition of what is legal. See NV Law.
<a href="#">Clark Co. NV.</a>	<a href="#">12.04.180</a>	Y <3"	concealed weapon of any description, including a knife with a blade of three inches
<a href="#">Henderson, NV</a>	<a href="#">8.98.010</a>	Y <3"	including a knife with a blade of three inches or more,
<a href="#">Las Vegas, NV.</a>	<a href="#">10.70.010</a>	Y <3"	(B) Any knife with a blade three inches or more in length;
<a href="#">N. Las Vegas, NV</a>	<a href="#">9.32.040</a>	Y <3"	knife with a blade three inches or more in length
<a href="#">Reno, NV</a>	<a href="#">8.23.140.</a>	Y <2"	While carrying in a Park/Recreation area a Dangerous knife means a knife having a blade that is 2" or more
	<a href="#">8.12.160</a>		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, possessing, transporting, collecting, or lawfully using any type of knife!

<b>New Jersey</b>	2C-39-1 & 2C-39-3 & 2C-39-6 & 2C-39-9.1	<b>Y &lt;5"</b>	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.
<b>Glen Ridge, NJ</b>	<b>9.24.010</b>	<b>?</b>	carry without lawful authority..... dangerous knife,
<b>New Mexico</b>	30-1-12. & 30-7-2. & 30-7-8	<b>Unk</b>	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.
<b>New York</b>	265.00 &.265.01 - 265.04. - 265.10 - 265.15	<b>Y ?</b>	Switchblades and gravity knives are illegal. Other knives only illegal when carried with intent to do harm etc.
<b>New York City</b>	<b>§ 10-133</b>	<b>Y &lt;4"</b>	carry on his or her person or possess a Knife with a blade length of four inches or more. Must not be carried exposed.
<b>Rochester</b>	<b>47-2</b>	<b>Y 3"</b>	other than a folding pocketknife with no blade more than three inches in length;
<b>North Carolina</b>	14-269(d) & 14-269.2(d)	<b>Y ?</b>	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. (A length is not given in NC Law.)
<b>Asheville, NC</b>	<b>12-42.</b>	<b>Yes ?</b>	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
<b>Brevard, NC</b>	<b>42-14.</b>	<b>Yes ?</b>	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
<b>Buncombe Co. NC</b>	<b>54-10.</b>		possessing knife in a county park or county owned/operated recreational facility is unlawful.
<b>Cabarrus, Co. NC</b>	<b>50-4.</b>		possessing any weapon in the reasonable opinion of authorities/park officials can be used as a weapon (Knife)
<b>Cary, NC</b>	<b>24-10.</b>	<b>Y 3"</b>	No person shall carry a knife upon his person having a blade of three inches or longer in Parks/Recreation Areas.
<b>Catawba Co. NC</b>	<b>20-99.</b>		In Parks/Recreation Areas any knife or instrument capable of causing serious bodily injury designed for use as a weapo
<b>Charlotte, NC</b>	<b>15-14.</b>	<b>Y 3.5"</b>	Dangerous Weapons: Possession of knives of any kind or type having a blade in excess of 3 1/2 inches in length,
<b>Cherokee Indians</b>			Any school building/bus/campus/grounds/recreational area/athletic field or other property owned/used/operated by
<b>Conover, NC</b>	<b>16-14.</b>	<b>Y 3"</b>	in a parade or street event no knives of any kind or any type having a blade in excess of 3"
<b>Durham Co. NC</b>	<b>17-92.</b>		Weapon: shall not mean ordinary pocket knife designed for carrying in pocket/purse edge/point enclosed by handle
<b>Eastern Band, NC</b>	<b>14-34.1.</b>		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)
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,
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
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"
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	Unk		
-------------	-----	--	--

Ohio	2923.11 & 2923.12. & - 2923.20 Many cities have 2 1/2" length Max.	Y ?	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"
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,
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	549.10	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
Tallmadge, OH	549.13	Y 2.5"	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,

<b>Summit Co. OH</b>	549.09	<b>Y 2.5"</b>	or other knife having a blade of two and one-half inches in length or longer,
<b>Oklahoma</b>	21-1272	<b>Y ?</b>	dagger, bowie knife, dirk knife, switchblade knife, spring-type knife, sword cane, knife having a blade which opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife, are illegal. this section shall not prohibit: 1. The proper use of guns and knives for hunting, fishing, educational or recreational purposes;
<b>Del City, OK</b>	14-23.		no knives in Parks (other than pen knives),
<b>Muskogee, OK</b>	13-421 & 13-422	<b>Y 6"</b>	"Dangerous or deadly weapon" includes any knife with a blade which exceeds six (6) inches
<b>Nichols Hills, OK</b>	15-148.		carry upon his person/vehicle any knife offensive or defensive weapon except permitted by state law.
<b>Norman, OK</b>	15-504.	<b>Y 4"</b>	Any knife having a blade length exceeding four (4) inches
<b>Oklahoma City, OK</b>	30-311. & 30-302.		offer for sale or exhibit any pocket knife having a blade longer than four inches.
<b>Tulsa, OK</b>	1514 & 103.		The proper use of knives hunting/fishing/recreational purposes; capable of inflicting injury in Parks/Malls/Plazas
<b>Oregon</b>	161.015 & 166.24	<b>Y ?</b>	"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,
<b>Hillsboro, OR</b>	9.12.010 & 12.36.040	<b>?</b>	are prohibited within the Civic Center Block any knife sharpened on both edges; (ordinary pocket knife, OK)
<b>Lebanon, OR</b>	9.20.010	<b>Y &lt;3.5"</b>	other than an ordinary pocket knife with a blade less than three and one-half inches long
<b>Troutdale, OR</b>	9.48.010	<b>Y &lt;3.5"</b>	an ordinary pocketknife with a blade less than three and one-half inches long
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	C.S.A. 18.908. & 24 P.S. 13-1317.2	<b>Y ?</b>	"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
<b>Philadelphia, PA</b>	10-820	<b>No</b>	Any knife or other cutting instrument which can be used as a weapon
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	Unk	<b>? ?</b>	
<b>Rhode Island</b>	11-47-42	<b>Y 3"</b>	Dagger, Dirk, Stiletto, Bowie Knife are only prohibited if you have intent to use unlawfully against another.
<b>North Kingstown, RI</b>	12-14.		unlawful to carry any gun, knife, utilized as a weapon while participating in a picket line or group demonstration
<b>South Kingstown, RI</b>	12.1-7.	<b>Y 3"</b>	unlawful for any person in a public park or recreation area to carry Knife over 3"

<b>South Carolina</b>	16-23-405 & 16-23-430 & 16-23-490	<b>Y ?</b>	a knife with a blade over two inches long, and on school property
<b>Charleston, SC</b>	21-215.	<b>Y 3"</b>	unlawful for any person to carry concealed any knife the blade of which exceeds three (3) inches in length.
<b>Columbia, SC</b>	14-102.		It shall be unlawful for any person to carry about his person any case knife, within the corporate limits
<b>Greenville, SC</b>	24-261.	<b>Y 3"</b>	Possession of locked blade knife in excess of 3" or greater gives rise to an inference that the device is a weapon
<b>Hanahan, SC</b>	9-2-2	<b>Y 3"</b>	to carry concealed a clasp knife, which has a blade more than three (3) inches
<b>Irmo, SC</b>	22-103.	<b>Y 3"</b>	to carry concealed a clasp knife, which has a blade more than three (3) inches
<b>Moncks Corner, SC</b>	20-143.	<b>Y 3"</b>	to carry concealed a clasp knife, which has a blade more than three (3) inches
<b>Tega Cay, SC</b>	34-162.	<b>Y 4"</b>	Concealed weapons. "weapon" means a knife with a blade over four inches long

<b>South Dakota</b>	22-1-2 & 22-14-19 & 22-14-29	<b>Y ?</b>	"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;
<b>Aberdeen, SD</b>	4-4.	<b>Y &lt;3"</b>	in his possession while on the premises of any alcohol establishment a folding knife that has a blade 3" or longer
<b>Belle Fourche, SD</b>	5.16.081	<b>Y 3"</b>	carrying a folding pocket knife with a blade of no more than three inches which is kept in the closed position.
<b>Cayce, SC</b>	28-113.		unlawful for any person to carry on or about his person, concealed or not, any case knife six inches or longer

<b>Tennessee</b>	39-17-1397 39-17-1301 thru 39-17-1310	<b>Y 4"</b>	"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 with a blade length exceeding four inches (4"),
<b>Bristol, TN</b>	50-20.		unlawful for any person to carry in any manner whatever, with the intent to go armed any knife,
<b>Clarksville, TN</b>	10-207.	<b>Y 3"</b>	pocketknife with blade in excess of three (3) inches
<b>Memphis, TN</b>	10-32-2	<b>Y 4"</b>	pocket knife with any blade over four inches in length;

<b>Texas</b>	Penal Code 46.01 thru 46.06	<b>Y 5.5"</b>	(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; (C) dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; (D) bowie knife; (E) sword; or (F) spear. (7) "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) A person commits an offense if he intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries on or about his person a handgun, illegal knife. Switchblade illegal.
<b>Alice, TX</b>	14-98.		knife manufactured or sold for the purpose of offense or defense, on the property of the Alice International Airport.
<b>Corpus Christi, TX</b>	33-73.& 9-38.	<b>Y &lt;3"</b>	To Carry in any public place any knife having a blade measuring from the handle of 3" or more in length, for the purpose of offense or defense, on the property of the Corpus Christi International Airport.

Dallas Co. TX	106-52.	Y 4"	Any persons found on county property with a knife with a blade over four inches
Houston, TX	2-411. & 2-415.		No Knives on property or portion of a property that is owned by the city or is in the possession of the city
Laredo, TX	21-152.		any public park/public meeting/political rally/parade, or non-weapons-related school/college/professional athletic event in the city any illegal knife
Melissa, TX	4.614		for any peddler, solicitor, or handbill distributor to carry on or about his or her person an knife of any length
Robinson, TX	12-30.		goes in or upon any building or property owned or controlled by the city while possessing an illegal knife,
Shenandoah, TX	54-40.		No person shall bring into or have in his possession in any park area or facility any knife capable of inflicting injury
Texarkana, TX	15-66		unlawful to commit the following while aboard public transit system vehicles at public transit facilities: Carry knives

Utah	76-10-501. & 76-10-504	Y ?	"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 ?	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	14-1132-251	? ?	
----------------	-------------	-----	--

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.
Amherst Co. VA	12-25	Y 3"	in any park to have in his possession any knife with a blade of more than three (3) inches
Ashland, VA	12-12	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		to operate a taxicab at any time with a knife with a blade longer than 3"
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
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,
Norfolk, VA	47-6.		on any public/private/parochial/elementary/middle/high school, including buildings & grounds, W/blade 3" or longer

<b>Petersburg, VA</b>	74-207.		on any public/private/parochial/elementary/middle/high school, including buildings & grounds, W/blade 3" or longer
<b>Pulaski, VA</b>	70-132.		Parades/Rallies/Noncommercial Gatherings No participant shall carry knives/edged weapons, either openly or concealed
<b>Richmond, VA</b>	66-347.	<b>Y 3 1/4"</b>	knife having a blade more than 3 1/4 inches in length./ drive a taxicab with a blade longer than three inches

<b>Washington</b>	9.41.250 9.41.270	<b>Y ?</b>	See State Law
<b>Bainbridge Island, WA</b>	9.10.040	<b>Y &lt; 3"</b>	Carry any knife, sword, dagger or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more
<b>Camas, WA</b>	9.28.065	<b>Y 3.5"</b>	knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches in length
<b>Cheney, WA</b>	9A.07.020	<b>Y ?</b>	carry concealed upon his person any knife (other than an ordinary pocket knife)
<b>Edmonds, WA</b>	5.24.012	<b>Y &lt;3.5"</b>	knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches
<b>Ephrata, WA</b>	9.22.020	<b>Y &lt;4"</b>	with a blade of a length of four or more inches
<b>Everett, WA</b>	10.78.010	<b>Y &lt;3"</b>	"Dangerous knife" means any knife having a blade more than three inches in length
<b>Federal Way, WA</b>	6-138	<b>Y &lt;3"</b>	knife, sword, dagger or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more
<b>Lake Forest Park</b>	9.06.020	<b>Y ?</b>	Weapons prohibited in the municipal courtroom with a blade length of three or longer.
<b>Lynnwood, WA</b>	10.52.020	<b>Y &lt;3.5"</b>	knife having a blade more than three and one-half inches
<b>New Castle, WA</b>	9.05.710		premises where alcoholic beverages are dispensed a Knife with a blade, of a length of three inches or more,
<b>Normandy Park, WA</b>	7.24.040		carry or conceal any dagger, dirk, knife or other dangerous weapon
<b>Sultan, WA</b>	9.32.020	<b>Y &lt;4"</b>	having a blade longer than the length of four or more inches,
<b>Seattle, WA</b>	12A.14.010	<b>Y 3.5"</b>	"Dangerous knife" means any fixed-blade knife and any other knife having a blade more than (3 1/2") in length
<b>Woodinville, WA</b>	9.03.110		Weapons prohibited on liquor sale premises any knife with a blade of a length of three inches or more

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

<b>Wisconsin</b>	941.240 thru 941.24	<b>Y ?</b>	Switchblades , Gravity Knives, are illegal. Carrying Dangerous Weapons is Illegal. See state law.
<b>Bayside, WI</b>	62-266		or any other knife having a blade three inches or longer concealed either on his or her person or in a vehicle
<b>Racine, WI</b>	66-56	<b>Y &lt;3"</b>	or any knife having a blade three inches or longer
<b>Wauwatosa, WI</b>	7.92.010	<b>Y 3"</b>	any knife having a blade of three inches or more
<b>Milwaukee Co. WI</b>	63.015.	<b>Y &lt;3"</b>	"dangerous weapon" shall mean any other knife having a blade three (3) inches or longer

<b>Wyoming</b>	6-1-104 & 6-8-104	<b>Y ?</b>	"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;
<a href="#">Casper, WY</a>	9.44.020	Y 4"	folding knife with a blade in excess of four inches from the hilt,
<a href="#">Cheyenne, WY</a>	9.24.040	Y 4"	No person shall wear or carry concealed any knife the blade of which exceeds four inches in length
<a href="#">Douglas, WY</a>	9.12.080	Y <5"	any sheath or folding knife having a blade length of five (5) inches or more
<a href="#">Laramie, WY</a>	9.28.010	Y 5"	knife with a blade over five inches long

[Go to  
Part 1](#)

#### Arkansas Toothpick

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**

**12/5/09 - LA Rescue Knife Defined. 1/15/10 Boston Code Added**

**4/9/10 – AR State Law Info Updated.**

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

**5/23/10 – NH Passed Knife Preemption. All Knives Legal Now.**