

**ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE**

**Chapter 13**

**FIREARMS ORDINANCE**

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**§ 13-1. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Air gun” means any gun, rifle or pistol, by whatever name known, which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of compressed air or gas, or by the action of a spring or elastic, but does not mean a firearm.

“Dealer” means any person engaged in the business of selling at retail or renting air guns or projectiles therefor.

“Licensed dealer” means any person licensed under the provisions of this chapter, or any person regularly licensed to sell firearms.

“Minors” means any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-2. Dealer's License--Required.**

It shall be unlawful for any dealer, except a licensed dealer, to sell, lend, rent or otherwise transfer any air

gun or projectile therefor.  
(6-21-51)

**§ 13-3. Same--Application; Fee.**

Any dealer, other than a licensed dealer, desiring license to sell, lend, rent or otherwise transfer air guns or projectiles therefor shall make application to the County Manager or his designee, who shall provide the necessary forms. The applicant for such dealer's license shall pay a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per annum.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-4. Same--Issuance; Duration.**

Upon payment of the fee required by the preceding section, the County Manager or his designee shall issue to such applicant a license to sell, lend, rent or otherwise transfer air guns or projectiles therefor, which license shall remain in force subject to annual payment of the license fee, unless and until revoked in accordance with the provisions of this chapter; provided, that no license shall be issued to any applicant within two (2) years after the revocation of a previous license.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-5. Same--Revocation.**

A. Violation by a dealer of any of the provisions of this chapter shall be sufficient cause for the revocation of a license hereunder, after written notice to the dealer by the County Manager or his designee and an opportunity to be heard. The dealer shall have the privilege of being represented by counsel at such hearing.

B. Final conviction of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall automatically revoke and terminate any license issued hereunder. Upon a finding and judgment by a trial court against any dealer that he has been guilty of a violation of any provision of this chapter, the license of such dealer shall be automatically suspended pending the final disposition of any appeal from such finding and judgment.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-6. Minors--Dealers Not to Sell, Lend, Etc., to.**

It shall be unlawful for any licensed dealer to sell, lend, rent or otherwise transfer an air gun or projectiles therefor to any person whom the dealer knows or has reasonable cause to believe to be a minor.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-7. Same--Persons Giving, Lending, Etc., to.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to give, sell, rent, lend or otherwise transfer any air gun or projectiles therefor to a minor, except where the relationship of parent and child, guardian and ward or adult instructor and pupil exists between such person and the minor.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-8. Same--Carrying in Public Places.**

It shall be unlawful for any minor to carry any air gun on the streets, alleys, public roads or public lands of the County unless accompanied by an adult.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-9. Discharging across Highways, Sidewalks, Etc.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any air gun across any street, sidewalk, alley or public road or within one hundred (100) yards of any such street, alley, sidewalk or public road, or public building, private residence or property of another, or on or across any public land except as provided in § 17-5 of this Code.  
(6-27-51)

**§ 13-10. Penalties.**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, or who makes any statement in applying for the license provided for in this chapter, knowing such statement to be false, or who falsely represents himself as being over eighteen (18) years of age in order to purchase or otherwise obtain an air gun or projectiles therefor, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both; in addition, in the case of a dealer, to the revocation or suspension or the license provided for herein.  
(6-27-51)

**ARTICLE II****FIREARMS****§ 13-11. Authority.**

This Article is authorized pursuant to the authority under Section 15.2-915(E) of the Code of Virginia.  
(Ord. No. 20-15, 9-12-2020;)

**§ 13-12. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Article is to ensure the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Arlington County and to protect them from the use of firearms in County buildings and property, as well as, in places of permitted public events or adjacent to such events.  
(Ord. No. 20-15, 9-12-2020;)

**§ 13-13. Definitions.**

“Firearm” means any handgun, shotgun, or rifle that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material.  
(Ord. No. 20-15, 9-12-2020;)

**§ 13-14. Prohibition of Firearms on County Property.**

(1) The possession, carrying or transportation of any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof (i) in any building, or part thereof, owned or used, by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity, for governmental purposes; (ii) in any park owned or operated by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity; (iii) in any recreation or community center facility owned or operated by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity; or (iv) in any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way, or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by, or is adjacent to, a County-permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a County permit, is prohibited, subject to the notice requirements of (5). In buildings that are not owned by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity, such ordinance shall apply only to the part of the building that is being used for a governmental purpose and when such building, or part thereof, is being used for a governmental purpose.

(2) The possession, carrying, storage or transportation of firearms by County employees, agents or volunteers in workplaces owned, operated, leased or managed by the County is prohibited.

(3) This section shall not apply to: (a) military personnel when acting within the scope of their official duties; (b) sworn or retired law enforcement officers; (c) private security personnel hired by the County, when any of them are present and on duty in buildings owned, leased or operated by the County or in parks and in any recreational or community facility that is owned or used by the County; (d) security personnel at permitted

special events engaged by private entities conducting the special event and approved by the County through the special event permit application process; (e) historical re-enactors and any other persons who possess firearms that are inoperative or otherwise incapable of discharging a projectile, and are not loaded with operable ammunition, when such persons are participating in, or traveling to or from, special events that involve the display or demonstration of such firearms; or (f) activities of (i) a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program operated at a public or private institution of higher education in accordance with the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. (ii) any intercollegiate athletics program operated by a public or private institution of higher education and governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association or any club sports team recognized by a public or private institution of higher education where the sport engaged in by such program or team involves the use of a firearm; or (iii) professional sharpshooter personnel hired by the County to carry out deer management activities in any park owned or operated by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity. Such activities in (f) above shall follow strict guidelines developed by such institutions for these activities and shall be conducted under the supervision of staff officials of such institutions.

(4) Pursuant to this Section, the County may implement security measures that are designed to reasonably prevent the unauthorized access of such buildings, parks, recreation or community center facilities, or public streets, roads, alleys, or sidewalks or public rights-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit by a person with any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, such as the use of metal detectors and increased use of security personnel.

(5) Notice of the restrictions imposed by this section shall be posted (i) at all entrances of any building, or part thereof, owned or used by The County, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the County, for governmental purposes; (ii) at all entrances of any public park owned or operated by the County, or by any authority of local governmental entity created or controlled by the County; (iii) at all entrances of any recreation or community center facilities operated by the County, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the County; and (iv) at all entrances or other appropriate places of ingress and egress to any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit. (Ord. No. 20-15, 9-12-2020; Ord. No. 24-15, 11-16-2024;)

#### **§ 13.15 Penalties.**

Any person violating any provisions of this Article shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. (Ord. No. 20-15, 9-12-2020;)