

## WEAPONS POLICY

### Purpose

The Erie County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (“County Board”) is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its employees, visitors and consumers. Pursuant to Ohio law, the County Board is required to take certain actions and post certain notices with respect to the carrying of concealed weapons. In compliance with that law, and in furtherance of the County Board’s commitment to safety, it hereby adopts the following policies and procedures:

### Policy:

It is the policy of the County Board, that no person, including employees, volunteers, individuals supported by the County Board, or visitors, except law enforcement officers acting in the scope of their official duty, shall carry, convey, or possess a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance while on County Board premises or while engaged in business for the County Board. A valid license to carry a concealed weapon does not authorize any person to carry such a weapon while on County Board property or while engaged in business for the County Board.

- A. No person, except law enforcement officers acting in the scope of their official duty, shall possess, have under their control, convey or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance in a school safety zone. The “school safety zone” consists of all buildings where the County Board conducts special education or preschool education, instruction, training or extra curricular activities, as well as all real property (land) owned, leased or controlled by the County Board where those buildings are situated. “School Safety Zone” also includes any place where the County Board conducts special education or preschool extra curricular activities. This prohibition applies whether or not education, training, instruction or activities are actually in progress.

In accordance with R.C. §§2923.122 and 2923.1212, the following language shall be posted at the entrance of every County Board-owned building and at the entrance to the portion of any building, which is not owned by the County Board but is leased by the County/Board, that lie within a “school safety zone” as defined by law:

“Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2923.122, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person’s control, convey, or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone.”

- B. No person, except law enforcement officers acting in the scope of their official duty, shall possess, have under their control, convey or attempt to convey a deadly

weapon or dangerous ordnance into any building owned, leased or controlled by the County Board.

In accordance with R.C. §2923.1212, the following language shall be posted at the entrance of every County Board-owned building and at the entrance to the portion of any building, which is not owned by the County Board but is leased by the County/Board:

“Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person’s control, convey or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance onto these premises.”

- C. No person shall have a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance in any vehicle leased or owned by the County Board.
- D. No employee, contractor or agent of the County Board shall violate any of the above prohibitions. Employees lawfully possessing a firearm and lawfully transporting the firearm in their vehicle must leave the firearm in their vehicle in a locked compartment or box. Employees, contractors or agents of the County Board may not handle firearms on County Board property except to secure the firearm in a locked compartment or box in their vehicle.
- E. Non-employees who are carrying a concealed weapon onto County Board property shall be asked to leave. Failure to comply with these policies by non-employees will be subject to criminal prosecution.
- F. Employees who violate any of the above policies are subject to criminal prosecution, and may be subject to discipline up to and including discharge.
- G. Any person witnessing a violation or potential violation of any of these policies is encouraged to report the violation to the Superintendent and/or notify appropriate law enforcement personnel. Employees are required to report violations or potential violations.