

Gun Law Impact on Nonprofits

July 1, 2010, a new gun law was passed in Indiana that “Prohibits a person, including an individual, a corporation, and a governmental entity, from adopting or enforcing a policy or rule that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting an individual from legally possessing a firearm that is locked in the individual's vehicle while the vehicle is in or on the person's property.” Details regarding the law are below for your easy reference.

DIGEST OF HB 1065 (Updated January 20, 2010 5:30 pm - DI 52)

Citations Affected: IC 10-14; IC 34-6; IC 34-28; IC 35-47.

Synopsis: *Various provisions concerning firearms. Prohibits a person, including an individual, a corporation, and a governmental entity, from adopting or enforcing a policy or rule that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting an individual from legally possessing a firearm that is locked in the individual's vehicle while the vehicle is in or on the person's property. Excepts possession of a firearm: (1) on school property, on property used by a school for a school function, or on a school bus; (2) on certain child care and shelter facility property; (3) on penal facility property; (4) in violation of federal law; (5) on property belonging to an approved postsecondary educational institution; (6) at a person's residence; (7) on the property of a domestic violence shelter; and (8) on the property of an entity subject to the United States Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards or the Maritime Transportation Security Act.*

- Social service agencies address the needs of the most vulnerable populations: children, women in poverty, women, men, children victims of abuse and neglect, family violence, sexual assault, disabilities, etc.
- Social service agencies no longer have the ability to police their own properties for dangerous weapons.
- The most pressing concern of social service agencies is for the safety of clients who are trying to escape violent home lives.
- Facilities such as domestic violence and crisis shelters and childcare centers are exempt from the law, but administrative offices overseeing those facilities – often at a different site – are not exempt.
- Staff traveling between sites may be transporting clients, including children, and may legally have a gun in their vehicle at one location and not at the other.
- Because those vulnerable populations use all services at multiple facilities serving them, an exemption for one type of facility may fall tragically short in the future.
- Workplace violence can escalate and having easy access to guns could be fatal.
- The rights of property owners are trumped by gun owners. Although the legislation offers immunity from lawsuits for employers who comply with the statute, the law has not been tested in courts and the protection may fall short if someone is killed on the employer's property.