



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2013

**Source**  
SCS HB 33(JUD)

**Chapter No.**  
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## AN ACT

Amending certain provisions of criminal law prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transfer, or possession of switchblades and gravity knives; adding definitions of "gravity knife" and "switchblade" to the criminal law; and reserving to the state, with limited exceptions for municipalities, the authority to regulate knives.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



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2 possession of switchblades and gravity knives; adding definitions of "gravity knife" and  
3 "switchblade" to the criminal law; and reserving to the state, with limited exceptions for  
4 municipalities, the authority to regulate knives.

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6 \* **Section 1.** AS 11.61.210(a) is amended to read:

7           (a) A person commits the crime of misconduct involving weapons in the  
8 fourth degree if the person

9               (1) possesses on the person, or in the interior of a vehicle in which the  
10 person is present, a firearm when the person's physical or mental condition is impaired  
11 as a result of the introduction of an intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance into  
12 the person's body in circumstances other than described in AS 11.61.200(a)(7);

13               (2) discharges a firearm from, on, or across a highway;

14               (3) discharges a firearm with reckless disregard for a risk of damage to

1 property or a risk of physical injury to a person under circumstances other than those  
2 described in AS 11.61.195(a)(3)(A);

3 (4) manufactures, possesses, transports, sells, or transfers metal  
4 knuckles;

5 (5) [MANUFACTURES,] sells [,] or transfers a switchblade or a  
6 gravity knife **to a person under 18 years of age without the prior written consent**  
7 **of the person's parent or guardian;**

8 (6) knowingly sells a firearm or a defensive weapon to a person under  
9 18 years of age;

10 (7) other than a preschool, elementary, junior high, or secondary  
11 school student, knowingly possesses a deadly weapon or a defensive weapon, without  
12 the permission of the chief administrative officer of the school or district or the  
13 designee of the chief administrative officer, within the buildings of, on the grounds of,  
14 or on the school parking lot of a public or private preschool, elementary, junior high,  
15 or secondary school, on a school bus while being transported to or from school or a  
16 school-sponsored event, or while participating in a school-sponsored event, except that  
17 a person 21 years of age or older may possess

18 (A) a deadly weapon, other than a loaded firearm, in the trunk  
19 of a motor vehicle or encased in a closed container in a motor vehicle;

20 (B) a defensive weapon;

21 (C) an unloaded firearm if the person is traversing school  
22 premises in a rural area for the purpose of entering public or private land that is  
23 open to hunting and the school board with jurisdiction over the school  
24 premises has elected to have this exemption apply to the school premises; in  
25 this subparagraph, "rural" means a community with a population of 5,500 or  
26 less that is not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks or with a  
27 population of 1,500 or less that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or  
28 Fairbanks; or

29 (8) being a preschool, elementary, junior high, or secondary school  
30 student, knowingly possesses a deadly weapon or a defensive weapon, within the  
31 buildings of, on the grounds of, or on the school parking lot of a public or private

1 preschool, elementary, junior high, or secondary school, on a school bus while being  
2 transported to or from school or a school-sponsored event, or while participating in a  
3 school-sponsored event, except that a student may possess a deadly weapon, other  
4 than a firearm as defined under 18 U.S.C. 921, or a defensive weapon if the student  
5 has obtained the prior permission of the chief administrative officer of the school or  
6 district or the designee of the chief administrative officer for the possession.

7 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 11.61.220(a) is amended to read:

- 8 (a) A person commits the crime of misconduct involving weapons in the fifth  
9 degree if the person
  - 10 (1) is 21 years of age or older and knowingly possesses a deadly  
11 weapon, other than an ordinary pocket knife or a defensive weapon,
    - 12 (A) that is concealed on the person, and, when contacted by a  
13 peace officer, the person fails to
      - 14 (i) immediately inform the peace officer of that  
15 possession; or
      - 16 (ii) allow the peace officer to secure the deadly weapon,  
17 or fails to secure the weapon at the direction of the peace officer,  
18 during the duration of the contact;
    - 19 (B) that is concealed on the person within the residence of  
20 another person unless the person has first obtained the express permission of  
21 an adult residing there to bring a concealed deadly weapon within the  
22 residence;
    - 23 (2) knowingly possesses a loaded firearm on the person in any place  
24 where intoxicating liquor is sold for consumption on the premises;
    - 25 (3) being an unemancipated minor under 16 years of age, possesses a  
26 firearm, **switchblade, or gravity knife** without the consent of a parent or guardian of  
27 the minor;
    - 28 (4) knowingly possesses a firearm
      - 29 (A) within the grounds of or on a parking lot immediately  
30 adjacent to an entity, other than a private residence, licensed as a child care  
31 facility under AS 47.32 or recognized by the federal government for the care of

1           children, except that a person 21 years of age or older may possess an unloaded  
2           firearm in the trunk of a motor vehicle or encased in a closed container of a  
3           motor vehicle;

4                 (B) within a

5                             (i) courtroom or office of the Alaska Court System; or  
6                             (ii) courthouse that is occupied only by the Alaska  
7                             Court System and other justice-related agencies; or

8                 (C) within a domestic violence or sexual assault shelter that  
9                     receives funding from the state;

10                         (5) possesses or transports a switchblade or a gravity knife; or

11                         (6) is less than 21 years of age and knowingly possesses a deadly  
12                     weapon, other than an ordinary pocket knife or a defensive weapon, that is concealed  
13                     on the person.

14 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 11.81.900(b) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

15                         (65) "gravity knife" means any knife that has a blade that opens or  
16                     releases a blade from its handle or sheath by the force of gravity or by the application  
17                     of centrifugal force; "gravity knife" does not include a knife that has a spring, detent,  
18                     or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure that requires a person to  
19                     apply exertion to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure  
20                     and open or release the blade;

21                         (66) "switchblade" means any knife that has a blade that folds, closes,  
22                     or retracts into the handle or sheath that opens automatically by pressure applied to a  
23                     button or other device located on the handle or sheath; "switchblade" does not include  
24                     a knife that has a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward  
25                     closure that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome  
26                     the bias toward closure and open the blade.

27 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 29.10.200(40) is amended to read:

28                         (40) AS 29.35.145 (regulation of firearms **and knives**);

29 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 29.35.145(a) is amended to read:

30                         (a) The authority to regulate firearms **and knives** is reserved to the state, and,  
31                     except as specifically provided by statute, a municipality may not enact or enforce an

1 ordinance regulating the possession, ownership, sale, transfer, use, carrying,  
2 transportation, licensing, taxation, or registration of firearms **or knives**.

3 \* **Sec. 6.** AS 29.35.145(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) Municipalities may enact and enforce ordinances

5 (1) that are identical to state law and that have the same penalty as  
6 provided for by state law;

7 (2) restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their  
8 respective jurisdictions where there is a reasonable likelihood that people, domestic  
9 animals, or property will be jeopardized; ordinances enacted or enforced under this  
10 paragraph may not abridge the right of the individual guaranteed by art. I, sec. 19,  
11 Constitution of the State of Alaska, to bear arms in defense of self or others;

12 (3) restricting the areas in their respective jurisdictions in which  
13 firearms **or knives** may be sold; a business selling firearms **or knives** may not be  
14 treated more restrictively than other businesses located within the same zone; and

15 (4) prohibiting the possession of firearms **or knives** in the restricted  
16 access area of municipal government buildings; the municipal assembly shall post  
17 notice of the prohibition against possession of firearms **or knives** at each entrance to  
18 the restricted access area.

19 \* **Sec. 7.** AS 11.61.220(a)(5) is repealed.