

Concealed Carry in Places of Worship

This information provides guidance on the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act (the "Act") as it relates to places of worship. The Act was passed in July 2013 and allows gun owners in Illinois to carry concealed weapons with a license. 430 ILCS 6/1 *et seq.* While, the Act contains broad exceptions to the right to carry a concealed weapon, the Act does not yet prohibit the carrying of a concealed firearm into a house of worship. Illinois Senator Dan Kotowski has initiated a campaign and filed Senate Bill 1002 in mid-July 2013, which proposes to amend the Act to add churches, synagogues and mosques to the list of places forbidden for concealed carry. However, as of December 2013, no further action has been taken.

The Act permits private property owners to prohibit the carrying of concealed guns on property under their control as long as a specific sign issued by the Illinois State Police is posted. 430 ILCS 66/65. Pursuant to Section 65(d) of the Act, the sign must be clearly and conspicuously posted at the entrance of a building, premises, or real property. The sign features the silhouette of a gun with a red circle and slash over it and must be four (4) inches by six (6) inches in size, and is available at <https://ccl4illinois.com/ccw/Public/Signage.aspx>. Therefore, churches in Illinois may prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons into the church as long as signs are posted in accordance with the Act.