

Title 23
Disclosure of Information on Health Risks Related to Firearms

UPDATED: February 15, 2019

Chapters:

23.10 DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON HEALTH RISKS RELATED TO FIREARMS

23.10 DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON HEALTH RISKS RELATED TO FIREARMS

Sections:

- 23.10.010 Purpose and policy declared.
- 23.10.020 Definitions.
- 23.10.030 Disclosure.
- 23.10.040 Enforcement – penalties.

23.10.010 Purpose and policy declared.

A. This chapter is enacted as an exercise of the board of health powers of King County to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety and welfare. Its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of these purposes.

B. It is expressly the purpose of this chapter to provide for and promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public, and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by this chapter.

C. It is the specific intent of this chapter to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon the owner of each establishment within its scope, and no provision nor term used in this title is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon King County or any of its officers or employees, for whom the implementation or enforcement of this title shall be discretionary and not mandatory.

D. Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to be nor shall be construed to create or form the basis for any liability on the part of King County, or its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of any person subject to this chapter to comply with this chapter, or by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in connection with the implementation or enforcement of this chapter on the part of King County by its officers, employees or agents. (R&R 18-04 § 4, 2018).

23.10.020 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

A. "Dealer" means a person engaged in the business of selling firearms at wholesale or retail who has, or is required to have, a federal firearms license under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a). A person who does not have, a federal firearms license under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923(a), is not a dealer if that person makes only occasional sells, exchanges or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby, or sells all or part of the person's personal collection of firearms.

B. "Firearm" means a weapon or device from which a projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder. "Firearm" does not include a flare gun or other pyrotechnic visual distress signaling device, or a powder-actuated tool or other device designed solely to be used for construction purposes.

C. "Operator" means the operating license applicant, and any of its officers, directors, partners or owners for a shooting sports facility.

D. "Sale" means the actual approval of the delivery of a firearm in consideration of payment or promise of payment.

E. "Shooting sports facility" means a facility designed and specifically delineated for safe shooting practice with firearms.

F. "Site" means the facility where a sale and transfer of firearms is conducted.

G. "Transfer" means the intended delivery of a firearm from a dealer to another person without consideration of payment or promise of payment including, but not limited to, gifts and loans. "Transfer" does not include the delivery of a firearm owned or leased by an entity licensed or qualified to do business in the state of Washington to, or return of such a firearm by, any of that entity's employees or agents, which includes volunteers participating in an honor guard, for lawful purposes in the ordinary course of business. (R&R 18-04 § 5, 2018).

23.10.030 Disclosure.

A. For all firearm sales, a dealer shall disseminate to purchaser the information as described in subsection D. of this section by posting a sign that shall be posted conspicuously, in a manner that it is easily read, at the entrance of the site and at least one additional area where sales occur. The notice shall not contain other statements or markings.

B. For all firearm transfers, a dealer shall disseminate to transferee the information as described in subsection D. of this section by posting a sign that shall be posted conspicuously, in a manner that it is easily read, at the entrance of the site and at least one additional area where transfer occur. The notice shall not contain other statements or markings.

C. At all times, the operator of a shooting sports facility shall disseminate to its customers the information as described in subsection D. of this section by posting a sign that shall be posted conspicuously, in a manner that it is easily read, at the entrance of the shooting sports facility and at all areas where shootings occur. The notice shall not contain other statements or markings.

D. The following information shall be on a sign that is at least a letter size, which is eight and one-half inches by eleven inches, paper and written in at least thirty-point type: "WARNING: The presence of a firearm in the home significantly increases the risk of suicide, homicide, death during domestic violence disputes and unintentional deaths to children, household members and others. (King County Board of Health chapter 23.xx (this chapter)) If you or a loved one is experiencing distress and/or depression, call the Crisis Connections immediately at (866) 427-4747, available 24 hours a day or visit www.crisisconnections.org.

E. The director of Public Health - Seattle & King County shall make available a downloadable sign as described in subsection D. of this section in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Somali, Chinese, Korean, Ukrainian, Amharic and Punjabi on the Public Health - Seattle & King County Internet web site. (R&R 18-04 § 6, 2018).

23.10.040 Enforcement - penalties.

A. The director of Public Health - Seattle & King County is authorized to enforce this chapter in accordance with BOH chapter 1.08 and consistent with subsection B. of this section.

B. When violations of this chapter occur, a warning shall first be given to the dealer, or operator as applicable, or other person in charge of the site. Any subsequent violation is subject to a civil penalty of up to one hundred dollars. Each day upon which a violation occurs or is permitted to continue constitutes a separate violation.

C. Only specifically designated enforcement staff of Public Health - Seattle & King County may enforce this chapter and monitor compliance, to ensure appropriate signage is posted at facilities. (R&R 18-04 § 7, 2018).