



## *MEMORANDUM*

09 November 2012

To: All Clergy, Congregations, and Diocesan Institutions  
From: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny  
Subject: Oklahoma Self-Defense Act / open Carry Law

The following provision of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act is now law in the State of Oklahoma. After consulting with our diocesan chancellor, I want to share the following:

- A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, nothing contained in any provision of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, Section 1290.1 et seq. of this title, shall be construed to limit, restrict or prohibit in any manner the existing rights of any person, property owner, tenant, employer, or business entity to control the possession of weapons on any property owned or controlled by the person or business entity.
- B. No person, property owner, tenant, employer, or business entity shall be permitted to establish any policy or rule that has the effect of prohibiting any person, except a convicted felon, from transporting and storing firearms in a locked vehicle on any property set aside for any vehicle.

As such, after careful review, the policy of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma is to prohibit any weapon inside any building owned or occupied by the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, Episcopal Churches, Episcopal Schools or Institutions, and Episcopal Camp and Conference Centers.

The only exceptions to this policy are those persons employed by a City, County, State, or Federal Law Enforcement Agency exercising their duties in such capacity; and for those persons engaged on a temporary basis for security purposes at a specific event or place, for a specific time frame.

Exceptions to this policy will also include organized training or sporting events, such as skeet shooting, when under the direct control and supervision of staff authorized by the Bishop of the Diocese.

All other exceptions would require prior written approval by the Bishop.