

# POLICY ON POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

Adopted by BST Board of Trustees  
October 25, 2014

The Berkeley School of Theology does not tolerate firearms on campus. Violators are subject to arrest and prosecution according to federal, state, and local laws.

California State Law and Amendments:

The California Gun Free School Zone Act of 1995 prohibited transportation and possession of firearms on school grounds or within school zones. This legislation and its amendments, chaptered in California Penal Code Section 626.9 states, in relevant part:

Any person who brings or possesses a loaded firearm upon the grounds of a campus of, or buildings owned or operated for student housing, teaching, research, or administration by, a public or private university or college, that are contiguous or are clearly marked university property, unless it is with the written permission of the university or college president...shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for two, three, or four years. Cal. Penal Code Section 626.9(h)

Similar prohibitions apply to the transportation and possession of unloaded firearms. Assembly Bill 2609, enacted in 1998, specified that the law applies to off-site seminary properties that may be a part of a central campus or contiguous to a campus, such as off-site student dormitories, campus apartments, staff and student on site houses.

The law also requires that the Seminary post a prominent notice of primary entrances to all clearly marked noncontiguous property stating that unauthorized transportation and possession of firearms on Seminary-owned or operated property is prohibited pursuant to California Penal Code Section 626.9. To comply with this new requirement, such President shall make arrangements to post appropriate signage at subject property.

In limited special circumstances, the President or his/her designees may grant written permission to an individual for lawful possession of a firearm on Seminary property. Law enforcement officers or security guards licensed to carry weapons do not need special permission. The President's staff shall work closely with University of California, Berkeley campus police and local police departments to identify those circumstances when permission is warranted, such as to University and seminary employees who may work in remote and potentially dangerous locations. Campus police departments are encouraged to develop measures promoting public safety for those instances where authorization is approved, including fingerprinting, weapon inspections and the institution of gun safety measures.