

What is a Prohibited Offensive Weapon Under Pa Law?

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PROHIBITIVE OFFENSIVE WEAPON (POW)

Questions we will answer:

- * Is the knife you carry as part of your personal protection plan legal in Pa?
- * What about the other tools you may be carrying?
- * It is always good to know the law when making your self-protection decisions.

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DEFINITION OF A POW – PA CRIMES CODE SECTION 908

- Pennsylvania defines a prohibited offensive weapon as follows:

"Offensive weapons." Any bomb, grenade, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches, firearm specially made or specially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, any blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way ...

PA CRIMES CODE TITLE 18 SECTION 908

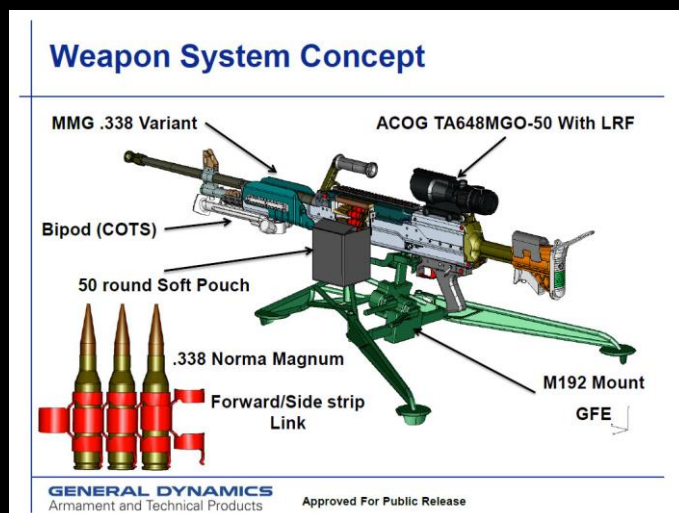
- A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if, except as authorized by law, he makes repairs, sells, or otherwise deals in, uses, or possesses any offensive weapon.
- **Definitions.**--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:
- "Firearm." Any weapon which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive or the frame or receiver of any such weapon.
- "Offensive weapons." Any bomb, grenade, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches, firearm specially made or specially adapted for concealment or silent discharge, any blackjack, sandbag, metal knuckles, dagger, knife, razor or cutting instrument, the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, or otherwise, any stun gun, stun baton, taser or other electronic or electric weapon or other implement for the infliction of serious bodily injury which serves no common lawful purpose.

COMMON SELF DEFENSE DEVICES

- Some common self defense devices that you may already carry and have question about are as follow:
- **A Baton** – illegal to own and carry on ones person or in a vehicle. A lot of folks still carry these types of items when the go out for walks to protect themselves and their pets. Can be easily purchased at any flea market, online or at a gun show.
- **Pepper Spray**, a favorite of mine because it packs a big punch from a small package – Pepper spray is a great item in less lethal use of force, I highly recommend it. It is legal to carry in public and on just about all college campuses. In fact I highly recommend it.
- **Spring (leaf) or (lever) assisted knives**. They can be legal or illegal to carry in PA as the statute as written is not really clear, again this is left up to the interpretation of the jurisdiction you are in when in possession of them. The law is very sketchy in this area. You can buy these at any flea market, online or at a gun show.

POW

- Some examples of a POW are as follows: Machine guns



POWS – SAWED OFF SHOTGUNS



POWS – GRENADES AND BOMBS





POWS BRASS KNUCKLES AND SAP GLOVES



POWS BLACK JACKS AND SWITCH BLADES



POW

- Batons



LEGAL TO CARRY AND POSSESS

- Walking sticks and canes:



LEGAL TO OWN AND CARRY

- **OC Pepper Spray**: Never to be referred to as a weapon as it is soft hands approach to use of force. It is not a tool that is used to strike or fight with an individual. It is a natural food product that is a severe irritant and inflammatory agent that directly affects the eyes, ears, nose, upper respiratory system and the soft mucous membranes of the human body.



ILLEGAL TO OWN AND CARRY

- **Stun Guns:** They come in many shapes and sizes and potencies. You can buy them just about everywhere including flea markets and gun shows.



ILLEGAL TO OWN AND POSSESS BUT VERY EASY TO PURCHASE



LEGAL OR ILLEGAL TO OWN AND POSSESS?

- **Knives – Assisted open or spring/lever action units** – These units are designed for one hand opening and are assisted by a lever that springs or assists the blade into the open position. These can be purchased just about any where. The **AKTI (American Knife and Tool Institute)** states the following regarding assisted open knives in PA:
 - **Restricted Knives:**
 - Any item in the broad “knife” category, “**the blade of which is exposed in an automatic way by switch, push-button, spring mechanism, or otherwise,**” is restricted. This restriction does not apply to “**assisted opening**” or “**gravity**” knives **based on the doctrine of strict construction and interpretation of the statute by the Pennsylvania courts.** Again, this is one interpretation and it all depends upon where you are when you are carrying the knife and how the courts interpret the statutes language. You may be prosecuted for it.

ASSISTED OPEN KNIVES



IN CLOSING

- I truly hope that this months training tips have helped you in making smart choices in putting together a personal protection program to fit your needs while operating within the scope of the law.
- I just want to say one thing to those who have contradicted our flag and our freedoms lately by declaring how bad the US is and how they thumb their noses at our great military and men and women of law enforcement. **Just get out of our great country!! Leave, we don't want you here or need you here!!**
- Thanks for attending and thanks to Kim and Doc Gallo for their assistance in bringing these program to fruition. Be safe and God Bless you all and may the 2nd Amendment remain untarnished and untouched by evil political hands who are against our basic god given right to defend ourselves. Be safe and God Bless the USA. Ed Bogats, Jr. PhD