

Cameron Firearms/Discharge Ordinances

Discharge of Firearms in Town Limits

1. Definitions applicable to these Firearm and Discharge Ordinances:
 - a. Blank: a firearm cartridge that, when fired, does not shoot a projectile. Blanks are not a safe discharge alternative to live ammunition since blanks can be deadly depending on the proximity of a person to the discharge. For purposes of this Ordinance, a non-projectile discharge shall be considered the same as a “blank”.
 - b. Discharge: the intentional or unintentional act of firing live ammunition or blanks from a firearm.
 - c. Dangerous Weapon: a weapon that can cause death or serious bodily injury when used as a weapon.
 - d. Firearm: any weapon, including a starter gun, which is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.
 - e. Live Ammunition: cartridges or shotgun shells containing explosive material that can be fired to expel a projectile.
 - f. Non-projectile discharge: a discharge from a weapon that produces fire, smoke and sound but lacks a projectile. For purposes of this Ordinance, a non-projectile discharge shall be considered the same as a “blank”.
 - g. Serious Injury: an injury that causes great pain or suffering including serious mental injury. NCGS 14-318.4.
 - h. Serious Bodily Injury: an injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ or that results in prolonged hospitalization. NCGS 14-318.4, NCGS 14-32.4, NCGS 14-233.
 - i. Weapon: includes such items as a firearm, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, sling shot, loaded cane, metallic knuckles, razor, shuriken, stun gun, and other like deadly weapons (see NCGS 14-269). A weapon may also include explosives, poisons and an item that can cause serious injury by its use to assault or threaten assault.
2. Pursuant to NCGS 160A-189, it shall be unlawful for a person to intentionally discharge a firearm within the Cameron town limits except:
 - a. when used in defense of person or property; or,
 - b. when discharged under lawful directions of a law-enforcement officer; or,
 - c. when discharged as allowed by permit.
3. Firearms may be discharged within the City Limits or on Town property by permit issued by the Town Clerk. The Town reserves the right to deny applications that pose a danger to public safety, that will create excessive noise or that do not meet the permitted uses. An approved permit may be revoked prior to its expiration date in any case where the conditions of the permit have not been or are not being complied with. The Clerk shall give the permittee notice of the Town’s intention to revoke the permit at least three (3) days prior to a Town Board review thereof. After conclusion of the review, the Town Board may revoke such permit.

4. Permits may be issued for:
 - a. Ceremonial purposes; or,
 - b. Historical re-enactments; or,
 - c. Educational programs; or,
 - d. Entertainment programs; or,
 - e. Authorized community events such as turkey shoots; or,
 - f. Hunts authorized within the town limits by the town commission, SEE Ordinance 2012-002 [your hunting ordinance].
5. Permit Applications: Applicants wishing to fire weapons within the town limits or on town property shall apply 10 days prior to the event and pay a processing fee of \$50.00. Applicants shall indicate:
 - a. the days and times of discharge.
 - b. the purpose of the discharge.
 - c. the location(s) of the discharge.
 - d. The type of discharge, live ammunition or shot to be used; and,
 - e. The duration of the event, i.e. the number of days discharge may take place.

6. Penalties and Enforcement

- a. Any person, group of persons, firm, corporation, or organization that violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 14-4.
- b. Any person, group of persons, firm, corporation, or organization that violates any provision of this section may also subject the violator to a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). If such penalty is not paid within ten (10) days, then the Town may seek to recover the penalty by filing a civil action in the matter of debt.
- c. The provisions of this section may be enforced by the town clerk, or by other town employees designated by the Town Commissioners.
- d. The Town may enforce this section through any appropriate remedy available by law or equity.

Possession of Firearms on Town Property

1. **Display of Firearms on public property prohibited.** Pursuant to NCGS 160A-175, except as provided in subsection 7 below, it shall be unlawful and hereby prohibited for any person, to display any firearm within or upon any real property owned (except property owned by the Town and leased to some other person or organization), leased, as lease, or otherwise temporarily controlled by the Town. See NCGS 160A-189 and 14-415.23.
2. **Possession of firearms on public property is prohibited.** Pursuant to NCGS 14-415.23 and 160A-175, except as provided in subsection 7 below, it shall be unlawful and hereby prohibited for any person, not in possession of a valid concealed carry permit, to carry, possess or have within his immediate access any firearm within or upon any real property owned (except property owned by the Town and leased to some other person or organization), leased, as lease, or otherwise temporarily controlled by the Town.

3. **Possession of weapons in town buildings is prohibited.** Pursuant to NCGS 14-415.23 and 160A-175, except as provided in subsection 7 below, it shall be unlawful and hereby prohibited for any person, including those in possession of a valid concealed carry permit, to carry, possess, or have within his immediate access any weapon, while in a building or upon the appurtenant premises owned (except property owned by the Town and leased to some other person or organization), leased, as lessee, or otherwise temporarily controlled by the town, whether such property is located within or outside the corporate town limits, provided that the town has caused to be posted a NOTICE, visible to the public, prohibiting all firearms, concealed or otherwise, inside the building or on the appurtenant premises.
4. **Possession of firearms at recreational facilities is prohibited.** Pursuant to NCGS 160A-175 and 14-415.23(b) and (c), except as provided in subsection 7 below, it shall be unlawful and is hereby prohibited for any person to possess any firearm, including a concealed handgun carried under the authority of a lawful concealed handgun permit, unless it is secured in a locked vehicle's trunk, glove box or other enclosed compartment in the vehicle, at any athletic facility used for athletic events, including, but not limited to, a gymnasium, and athletic fields including any appurtenant facilities such as restrooms, during an organized athletic event, if the fields had been scheduled for use with the Town of Cameron, provided that the town has caused to be posted a NOTICE, visible to the public, prohibiting all firearms, concealed or otherwise, inside the building or on the appurtenant premises. The list of facilities under which this section applies shall be kept by the Town Clerk.
5. The NOTICE described above shall be conspicuous and posted at each entrance to any property or facility set forth above where firearms or weapons are prohibited.
6. Nothing herein is intended to prohibit a person from storing a firearm in a locked vehicle's trunk, glove box or other enclosed compartment while on public property.
7. This section shall not apply to the following people while acting lawfully and within the scope of their duties and authority:
 - a. Law enforcement officers.
 - b. Officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces, Militia and National Guard.
 - c. Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) units or drill teams.
 - d. Moore County animal control officers.
 - e. People firing firearms without projectiles in organized educational, entertainment, instructional, or ceremonial events sponsored by the Town of Cameron.
 - f. People discharging firearms while holding a permit to do so from the Town of Cameron.
 - g. Officers of the state, or of any county, city or town, charged with the execution of the laws of the state, when acting in the discharge of their official duties.
 - h. Off duty, sworn law enforcement officers, who are carrying concealed weapons in accordance with departmental standard operating procedures.

- i. Any other person authorized, in writing, by the Town Commissioners or their designee to carry or possess dangerous weapons while in or upon specified public property. The Town Commissioners may promulgate guidelines for the issuance of permits for the possession of dangerous weapons on public property. The purpose of the guidelines shall be to ensure that permits are issued only for lawful purposes and in circumstances which present no threat to the safety and welfare of any person.

8. Penalties and Enforcement:

- a. Any person, group of people, firm, corporation, or organization that violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 14-4.
- b. Any person, group of persons, firm, corporation, or organization that violates any provision of this section may also subject the violator to a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). If such penalty is not paid within ten (10) days, then the Town may seek to recover the penalty by filing a civil action in the matter of debt.
- c. The provisions of this section may be enforced by the town clerk, or by other town employees designated by the Town Commissioners.
- d. The Town may enforce this section through any appropriate remedy available by law or equity.

Statutory Authority: NCGS 160A-175, 160A-189, 14-4, 14-415.11, 14-415.23; NCGS 14-318.4, NCGS 14-32.4, NCGS 14-233; NCGS 14-269

Adopted: October 28, 2025