

Weapons

know the consequences

What is an offensive weapon

www.thesite.org.uk defines an offensive weapon as:

‘an offensive weapon is any object that has been made or adapted to cause injury’

This can be anything from purpose-built weapons such as knives and guns or something like a glass bottle that has been smashed so that it can be used to hurt someone.

Although guns; including air weapons are classed as offensive weapons there are different laws that apply to them. See inside this leaflet for more information

Offensive weapons made for the purpose of causing injury include

Lock, flick or butterfly knives, knuckledusters, sword sticks or daggers

Items that can be adapted to cause injury and therefore classed as offensive weapons include

A broken bottle, bunch of keys, heavy object in sock, metal dog chain

- It is an offence to be in possession of an offensive weapon in a public place or on school premises
- It is an offence to sell, hire, lend or give an offensive weapon to anyone under 16
- It is an offence to be in possession of a bladed weapon or sharp implement in a public place
- It is an offence to carry a pocket knife if the blade itself is over 7.62cm/3in long
- If you carry an offensive weapon for someone else, **you are still breaking the law**

Guns (including air weapons)

It is an offence to be in possession of any of the following in a public place:

- A loaded shotgun
- An air weapon (eg BB guns) - whether loaded or not
- Any other firearm - whether loaded or not, together with ammunition suitable for use in that firearm
- An imitation firearm

If you are under 17:

- It is an offence to give an air weapon and/or ammunition to a person under 17
- It is an offence for a person under 17 to be in possession of an air pistol in any public place
- It is an offence for a person under 17 to be in possession of an air weapon and/or ammunition

For more visit: http://safe.met.police.uk/knife_crime_and_gun_crime/consequences_and_the_law.html

The consequences

- If you're arrested and found guilty of carrying an offensive weapon in public, you could get up to four years in prison.
- If you hurt, kill or almost kill someone, you could face life in prison
- If you carry a knife in public you could face four years' in prison and a £5,000 fine

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-out-if-i-can-buy-or-carry-a-knife>

<http://www.thesite.org/crime-and-safety/in-trouble/weapons-and-the-law-9301.html>

Joint enterprise

Joint enterprise is where two or more people plan to be involved a crime (i.e. taking property from a victim, causing criminal damage, theft of a motor vehicle etc) for a 'common purpose', in other words, if you knowingly help or encourage a crime to take place. Once the crime has been committed ALL people involved are criminally responsible for any offences committed by any other member of the group.

For example, the driver of a getaway car can be charged with robbery under joint enterprise even if somebody else actually committed the robbery.

Another example could be; if you and your friends get into a fight with another group, then in the fight one of your friends kills someone, you are in law, as guilty of murder as the person who actually killed someone (regardless of how they were killed) because you took part in the fight (Affray).

It is not enough defence to say that you did not touch the person / damage the property / steal the property. If you knew the crime was going to take place, unless you are able to prove that you did all that you possibly could to prevent it (e.g. call appropriate emergency services – police / fire / ambulance etc), you will still be seen as guilty in the eyes of the law.

This could ultimately result in being sentenced for murder, even if you did not go near the victim.

