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Michigan's knife laws can be complex, but understanding them is crucial for both enthusiasts and everyday carriers. This guide breaks down legal blade lengths, allowed types of knives, and essential regulations to stay compliant with Michigan law. Whether you're a pocket knife collector or someone who carries a knife for work, this article will help navigate the state's legislation. Carrying certain types of blades in vehicles is restricted due to safety concerns. When venturing into the countryside for camping and hunting trips, it's essential to follow these regulations. In Michigan, carrying a potentially lethal weapon, such as an ax or hatchet hammer, without proper permission can lead to felony charges. Offenders may face penalties, including fines up to \$2,000 and imprisonment for up to five years. It is crucial to understand the laws regarding knife ownership and carrying in Michigan to avoid potential issues. The state has specific regulations and restrictions that must be followed when owning or carrying a knife. For instance, some jurisdictions may require minors under 16 to obtain parental consent before purchasing certain types of knives. Concealed carry regulations are also in place, and carrying concealed weapons with blades longer than three inches is prohibited without special permission from law enforcement authorities. Additionally, open carry for all sorts of knives is allowed, but possessing knives in schools or government institutions may result in stern penalties. Federal regulations on carrying and concealing weapons while transporting them across state borders must also be taken into consideration. It's essential to educate yourself beforehand to ensure that your actions comply with federal requirements. Blade knives with a blade length of more than three inches are illegal to carry concealed in Michigan. This article will explain the most important facts about the knife laws in Michigan. First off, you should know that there is no statewide preemptive ban so the laws may vary from county to county. So it's possible to own and carry a knife in one place but not anywhere. Pocket knives and knives with one edge are the only types that are allowed for concealed carry. You can't carry any knife that has more than one edge or has a blade length of more than three inches on school property without special authorization from the school board. Most cities in Michigan have the same rule, the maximum length of a legal knife is three inches for fixed blade and double edge knife. But there are some exceptions to this rule. If you get caught with an illegal knife, you will be subject to imprisonment for up to five years or a fine of up to \$2500. But don't worry, the law changed in 2017 and now it is legal to carry switchblade knives and mechanical knives. There are some special rules that you should know about: *Daggers* Dirks* Stiletto* Double edged knives* Fixed blade knives with length of more than three inches* Any stabbing instrument of any length* Any other dangerous weapons that can be used to assault someone. But don't worry, you can still carry these knives openly. But if you hide them under your clothes or something, it will be considered concealed carry. You can't carry any of these knives in certain places like courthouses or schools without special authorization. So, it's important to know about Michigan knife laws and what you can and can't do. Carrying a knife with the intent to harm someone. However, it's essential to note that while it is illegal to carry a double-edged OTF knife (automatic or not), an OTF knife that is NOT double-edged could technically be legal. Nevertheless, I'd advise against carrying one since there's a good chance it would be seen as a dirk or dagger by a judge or prosecutor. Michigan Knife Laws: A Comprehensive Guide###ENDARTICLEMichigan Knife Laws: A Comprehensive Guideparaphrased text here###ENDARTICLEcarrying knives in Michigan can be complex and vary depending on the location and purpose of possession, however, here is an overview of the main points as follows: under MCL 750.234d, knives are prohibited in schools, courts, and entertainment venues regardless of blade length, schools have strict regulations and confiscate any weapon found on school property while courthouses enforce security policies banning all weapons including pocket knives federal buildings such as post offices and social security offices fall under 18 USC 930 making it illegal to carry a weapon into these facilities private businesses and entertainment venues may also impose their own restrictions, however violating a private venue's policy may not result in criminal charges but can deny entry or request removal from the premises certain exceptions apply for law enforcement officers military personnel and government agents acting within the scope of their employment as well as tradespeople using pocket knives for work-related purposes penalties for violations can range from misdemeanors to felonies depending on repeat offenses or violations in restricted locations unlawful carrying a concealed dangerous weapon may be punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a fine of up to 2500 however carrying a knife in prohibited locations can lead to misdemeanor charges and confiscation law enforcement interactions with individuals regarding pocket knives can be unpredictable remaining calm and cooperative is advisable when stopped officers may ask about the intended use providing a clear lawful explanation can influence the outcome seeking legal representation is also important as court rulings emphasize intent and context determining whether a knife is legally possessed carrying a knife in vehicle unless it's stored properly, such as trunk, to avoid concealed carry issues. Michigan knife laws apply to everyone except: Peace officers Employees in public or private correctional centers Military officers on active duty Security guards and other security employees employed by the state Members of National Guard, US military reserves on active duty or during drills Any organization authorized by law to receive or buy weapons from state or country Motor carrier officers Michigan law states that carrying a knife with blade longer than three inches is illegal if you intend to use it unlawfully or harm others. This means you can carry any knife regardless of length if your intent is lawful however, carrying any knife in vehicle is illegal unless it's stored properly, such as trunk The knife carry laws in Michigan apply to everyone regardless of age, with no specific age restrictions on ownership or carry however, there are strict prohibitions on carrying knives in schools, and it's illegal for students to have dangerous weapons in school, at school events, or on school transport. Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL): Primary source for Michigan's knife laws is within MCL 750.226 and MCL 750.227 which discuss legality of carrying certain types of knives .Michigan Legislatures Official Page: Official page of Michigan Legislature provides legal codes concerning knife laws in Michigan State of Michigan's official website: This website provides information on amendments to Michigan Penal Code concerning knives Case NameSummaryMichigan v. MataThe defendant was charged for possessing Kershaw Speedsafe knife, which Michigan law at time considered to be automatic knife. The court ruled in favor of defendant finding that Kershaw Speedsafe knife did not fit definition of automatic knife under law. People v. VainesThe defendant was convicted for carrying concealed jackknife under Section 750.227(1) of Michigan law This case reached state supreme court and is one of earlier significant cases involving knife laws in Michigan. 1931: Initial enactment of Act 328 effective from September 18, 1931, which laid down basic framework for knife laws in Michigan. 1973: Amendment Act 206 effective from March 29, 1974, which brought changes to existing knife laws. 1986: Amendment Act 8 effective from July 1, 1986, brought further changes to knife laws October 2017: Public Act 96 of 2017 repealed prohibition on switchblades and other automatic knives making spring-assisted knives legal. 2021: Michigan Knife Rights Act (HB 4066) further clarified knife rights in Michigan allowing more leniency for legal carry Understanding Michigan's knife laws may require some time and effort especially given lack of statewide preemption which allows for local variations in knife laws Always check with legal professionals ensure compliance all state and local laws regarding knife ownership and carry in Michigan Stay sharp and always consult state website most up-to-date information As Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases Knives hold special place in our daily lives, whether cooking, outdoor activities collecting However possession and use of knives are governed by specific laws vary state to state In Michigan knife laws particularly important know avoid trouble To better understand restrictions certain types of knives rules concerning concealed carry lets dive into details knife laws in MichiganMichigan has laws regulating the use and possession of knives to ensure public safety and prevent misuse. The state defines a "knife" as any cutting instrument with a blade, including daggers and dirks, and places restrictions on carrying blades over 3 inches long. However, there are exceptions for certain individuals and situations. People in the military, law enforcement officers, and those using knives for legal business purposes can carry restricted knives. Also exempt are knives used for hunting and fishing, which have specific regulations. To avoid problems, it's essential to know and follow Michigan knife laws. This includes understanding that pocket knives with folding blades under 3 inches are generally allowed, but carrying a concealed dagger or dirk is illegal unless in designated locations like home or place of business. Michigan's penal code defines a "dangerous weapon" as any instrument potentially used to cause bodily harm or death, including knives intended for use as a weapon. Violating knife laws can lead to serious penalties, such as fines up to \$2,500 and 5 years in prison. When transporting a non-folding or double-edged knife, it's crucial to store it securely in an area like the trunk where it's not easily accessible. Knowing local restrictions is also vital; some cities have stricter laws than state regulations. Understanding Michigan's knife laws ensures that individuals can own and use knives legally without risking legal troubles. Knife safety is a crucial aspect of responsible behavior, and as a result of this law, there are exceptions to prohibitions relating to positive everyday actions: seven licensed cosmetologists, who must at times carry razors that exceed 3 inches (but may also possess razors exceeding 3 inches in length). All knives, regardless of length, may also be prohibited where there are local ordinances addressing different limitations on their possession or use. The specific size limits for knives in Michigan are referenced in two places: under MCL 750.230 (similar to MCL 750.227c, described above) and MCL 750.226a. MCL 750.226a states the following: A person shall not carry a dagger, dirk, or stiletto, or any other dangerous weapon with a blade over 3 inches in length on or about his or her person. The focus on this section of the law is specifically three inches in length as measured by the inside curvature of the handle. However, note that there are no references to concealed or open carry. Moreover, there is no distinction between lawful and unlawful places to carry a knife. Although it is illegal to carry a knife over three inches in length, this section is still relevant in a criminal setting because most prosecutors will charge a knife offense under MCL 750.226a or 750.230 in conjunction with other crimes allegedly committed in the same scenario. Military knives and knives used as a tool with legitimate purposes to include utility knives, knives provided to soldiers or holiday gifts from a family member who served in the military, are commonly addressed under MCL 750.230. There is an exception for people who possess "daggers, dirks, or stilettos" legally prior to April 28, 1952. See MCL 750.226a(3). Effective September 22, 2015, any person licensed as a knife maker under the Knife Rights Knife Rights Act in 43d of the "Code of Criminal Procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 776.21 to 776.99b," is exempt from arrest for violating MCL 750.226a. See MCL 750.226a(5). Specifically, under this statute, a body size restriction for knives that are legal to use for defensive weapons is set at a blade over 3 inches and less than 4 inches in length. Michigan knife laws recognize a number of types of knives and hold each type to different degrees of legality. Knife blades are generally categorized as fixed, folding or utility blades: Folding knives: are knives with blades that fold into the handle, which is typically no larger than 3 inches, so long as the blade does not lock in the open position. Fixed blade knives: are knives with blades that are permanent to the handle, which may be any length. These knives are either sheathed or secured by a hilt to a handle that does not fold. Utility knives: such as box cutters and/or carpet knives, have a blade that is not permanent to the handle. Utility knives may be sheathed or secured by a hilt. There is also case law addressing how the length of a knife is measured. A knife blade is measured "as the crow flies," or from the top of the handle to the tip of the blade. When measuring the size of a folding knife's blade, it is the size of the blade that matters, not the size of the handle. Also, when determining whether a knife is prohibited for carrying on school property, the measurement is again based on the crow's measurement from the base to the tip of the blade. Exceptions and special cases for knife size laws in Michigan While the law on the surface seems pretty straightforward, there are some exceptions we must consider. The knife laws are pretty important and take up a significant amount of Michigan Penal code, so the fact that you don't see as many problems related to knives as you do guns may be due to some professions or occupations where most of the exceptions are enumerated. One primary exception, and one that is a special case, is for an activity that most people are involved in hunting and fishing. In the hunting laws, there are various provisions for carrying knives, like for example section 43520, which essentially says "A person shall not possess a dirk, dagger, or stiletto on a fishing vessel." So a fishing vessel is an exception to the knife laws, which means it is a location where you can generally carry a knife that is in excess of the legal limits. Another exception to the knife law is in the art of taxidermy. Fake taxidermied heads of animals, where the actual animal is in fact long gone, used to be an exception to the knife law in Michigan, as long as the blades or other weapons were kept under 3 1/2 inches length and were not otherwise weaponized. The next big exception is for knives in certain professions, such as being a butcher, or in the military, or being a fisherman like I mentioned before. It is also a defense, here, if the knife is used in a particular context to accomplish that vocation. That said, if you were to get into some sort of brawl, even if the knife is really necessary for your job, like if you are a fisherman and were boarding someone's boat, you could still get into a lot of trouble. It can be discerning to figure out if your knife can legally be included in this list, and honestly a bright line rule would be preferable, but as long as it does not look like a weapon, and as long as you can articulate that it is being used for some sort of other vocation, like hunting and fishing, where a knife is an essential part of the activity, you will be okay. The next big exception relates specifically to concealed carry knives, what are called "automatic knives" in the law if you need to carry your knife in a way that it is exposed to the public where it is able to be seen without having to open your jacket or your coat and reveal it, then you should be concealed. There are various forms of concealment, whether it is on the outer cloak, otherwise known as your coat, or otherwise on your person. The penalties for violating Michigan's knife laws depend on the type of law you violate. Some laws are misdemeanors, while others are felonies. Criminal offenses are divided into many classes: For carrying a knife larger than 3 inches is a misdemeanor and can land you in jail for up to 90 days, a \$500 fine, or both. Carrying a concealed knife is a felony. In Michigan, a felony can result in imprisonment between a few months to up to life in prison. Criminal Penalties for Legal Knife Types Most commonly, a knife falls under state weapons laws and goes from a misdemeanor to a felony depending on the seriousness of the weapons charge. For example, it is not exceptionally common to be charged with a crime simply for owning a knife, but it does happen. Knife Cases and Self-Defense The law does allow the use of knives for self-defense, and should that occur, the knife owner may end up in court to prove self-defense was required. If the case goes to trial and the jury finds the use of the knife was unwarranted, they are likely to issue a verdict of guilty. If you are charged with a knife offense or your arrest is pending, find a good criminal lawyer who handles knife cases. In Michigan, practical advice for knife owners and blade enthusiasts is imperative. The law surrounding what knives can be legally carried and owned in the Great Lakes State can be very nuanced. Knife carry laws mostly identified as knife size laws can differ from one community to the next. Some knife owners see that as an opportunity to test the limits of the law. What you should know is that even if you carry a knife that you feel you are entitled to carry under statute, you could be arrested, and you probably will be if you have what could be considered an "illegal knife." If you find yourself on the opposite side of a knife crime, call a skilled Detroit criminal defense attorney to help protect your rights. The rules for knife size in Michigan are very straightforward, and that is exactly why successful knife owners choose to follow them. Michigan knife owners can get away with using virtually any knife they want if they play by the rules, which means ensuring that the blade is no more than three inches long and kept open at all times and is not otherwise in close proximity to a person's body. If the knife is not in close proximity to a person's body (because the knife could theoretically be used as a weapon against another person). Knife owners found to not follow these regulations can expect to be charged with felonious assault when they are caught carrying an illegal knife in Michigan. Certain knives are illegal to carry in Michigan regardless of size. These include multi-poised knives (think butterfly or balisong knives), double-edged blades and knives with a blade that is longer than three inches. Knife owners found in violation of this rule can expect to be prosecuted for a felony with a three-year maximum sentence and up to \$3,000 in potential fines. The bottom line? Knife owners who know the law will almost never run afoul of it, save for the really rare instances where other mitigating circumstances may have occurred (self-defense, mental health concerns, urban survival, or the knife in question may be included in one of the knife laws that require a different analysis). While the larger folding knives (like what your bus driver may have) should be avoided at all costs, other folding knives are typically acceptable if you are aware of and follow the rules and are in the know, and are followed.

What size knife is legal to carry in michigan. Legal pocket knife length in michigan. Legal size for a pocket knife. What size pocket knife is legal to carry in michigan.

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