

Chapter 365
Easton Ordinance Regarding Firearms

Section 365-1. Legislative findings; purpose and intent

Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148(c)(7)(H)(xiii), charges the Board of Selectmen with the responsibility to “promote the peace, safety, good government and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants”. The Board of Selectmen believes that the use of firearms by individuals not properly trained and qualified to use them, or discharged in a manner that would annoy or frighten persons or animals, or discharged in a manner likely to cause damage to property endangers public health, personal safety, rural character, and quiet enjoyment of life in our town. The Board of Selectmen further encourages the use of safe storage practices of firearms and ammunition, including gun locks and locked gun cabinets so as to insure the public safety.

Section 365-2. Definitions

- A. Firearm – shall have the meaning as provided by state law in Connecticut General Statutes Section 53a-3(19).
- B. Assault Weapon – shall have the meaning as provided by state law in Connecticut General Statutes Section 53-202a.
- C. Landowner – The legal or beneficial owner of a parcel of land, or a tenant of such owner, or an authorized agent or invited guest of such owner or of such tenant.
- D. Peace Officer – shall have the meaning as provided by state law in Connecticut General Statutes Section 53a-3(9).

Section 365-3. Discharge of Firearms or Assault Weapons Near Buildings Prohibited.

No person shall, at any time, discharge a firearm or assault weapon within 500 feet of any building which is occupied by persons or domesticated animals, unless they have within their possession the prior written permission of the landowner, unless said person is the landowner of such building. Any such written permission must be dated within six months of the date on which the firearm is discharged. For purposes of this ordinance, a building is presumed to be occupied unless it appears from a reasonable inspection of the interior portions thereof that it is, in fact, unoccupied.

Any person discharging a firearm shall take all necessary precautions to insure that any bullet, pellet, or projectile is confined strictly to the land from which it is discharged.

Section 365-4. Discharge on Land Posted As Hunting Prohibited.

No person shall, at any time, discharge a firearm or assault weapon within the boundaries of land the landowner has posted against hunting unless they have within their possession the prior

written permission of the person so posting the land. Any such written permission must be dated within six months of the date on which the firearm is discharged.

Section 365-5. No Discharge for Target Practice.

No person shall discharge any firearm for target practice in the town of Easton, except that target shooting, trapshooting, skeet shooting and shooting at clays with a shotguns, is permissible exclusively at duly organized shooting clubs or ranges or other locations as approved by the Chief of Police and the Board of Selectmen. The Chief of Police and the Board of Selectmen shall grant such permission provided the proposed location meets all provisions of this ordinance and is not otherwise deemed an unsafe location for the discharge of firearms or assault weapons. Such permission or denial thereof shall be in writing.

Section 365-6. Discharge of Machine Gun or Assault Weapon Prohibited.

No person shall possess or discharge any machine gun or assault weapon or any detachable magazine capable of storing more than ten rounds of ammunition within the town of Easton.

Section 365-7. Discharge of Firearms or Assault Weapons By Persons Under 18.

No person under the age of eighteen years shall discharge any firearm or assault weapon anywhere in the town of Easton, except persons between the ages of twelve years and eighteen years may discharge a firearm for target practice, provided such firearm is discharged in the physical presence and under the direct supervision of the person's parent, legal guardian, or a peace officer.

Section 365-8. Possession or Discharge of a Firearm or Assault Weapon on Town Property

No person shall carry or discharge a firearm or assault weapon on any property or buildings owned by or leased by or from the town of Easton.

Section 365-9. Exceptions

- A. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any peace officer when acting within the scope of their duties.
- B. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any persons, when acting to defend themselves or a third person from physical force in a manner consistent with state law.

Section 365-10. Penalty

Any person violating this ordinance shall have committed an infraction pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 51-164n and shall be subject to a fine of \$500.00 for each violation or to the maximum penalty authorized by law for each violation, whichever is greater. Each discharge of a weapon shall constitute a separate violation of this ordinance. This penalty shall apply to the parent or legal guardian of any minor who violates this ordinance.

Section 365-11. Severability.

If any one or more sections, subsections or sentences of this ordinance are held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on _____.

Adopted by the Town Meeting on _____.

Published on _____.

Effective on _____.

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