



Edwardsville Township
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDWARDSVILLE TOWNSHIP PREPARES FOR NEW CONCEALED CARRY LEGISLATION

Township Supervisor Frank Miles Takes Immediate Steps to Ensure Compliance with New Law

Photo Caption: Edwardsville Township Office of Frank Miles, Township Supervisor, displays the new concealed carry prohibited sign approved by the Illinois State Police.

Edwardsville, IL – January 8, 2014. With the concealed carry application process beginning, Edwardsville Township Supervisor Frank Miles today announced that Edwardsville Township has already undertaken a process to meet the administrative requirements for a local government under the law. Miles said, "With the enactment of this legislation, there are several requirements Edwardsville Township will need to meet to protect its citizens' right to bear arms but also to keep citizens safe in our public facilities."

The new law allows Illinois residents the ability to carry a concealed firearm but prohibits concealed weapons in public spaces including: buildings or portions of buildings under the control of local governments; schools; public libraries; public parks, athletic areas and athletic facilities under the control of a municipality or park district; public playgrounds; buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation; public transportation facilities; prisons and jails; buildings or areas under the control of the state legislative or executive branches of government and court buildings. The legislation also lists colleges and universities; hospitals; mental health facilities; and nursing homes as spaces where concealed weapons are not permitted.

According to Miles, the provisions for local governments are not fully defined, but his office is working on implementing policies at the Township to meet the requirements of the legislation. "We are expecting to see the first permits issued in April and are taking steps now to be ready," said Miles. Signage showing where concealed weapons are prohibited has been installed at all Township buildings and facilities including Robert C. Stille Township Community Park, located at 6368 Center Grove Road in Edwardsville. "The legislation specifically prohibits concealed weapons at playgrounds and public parks, so we have posted signs at the entrance to the park notifying the public."

Edwardsville Township will also need to amend its personnel policies to consider the impact of the new legislation on its employees. "An employee of the Township cannot carry a concealed weapon into the local government workplace, but it is less clear whether or not the employee can take a weapon into a Township vehicle," Miles said.

The law also prohibits concealed carry at public events and gatherings where a local government permit is required. "In order to protect the Township, we need to formalize what areas are considered under control of the Township. These are the types of questions that need to be discussed," Miles said.

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Concealed Carry and Local Governments

"While we were researching the law's requirements for local governments, there were enough questions that I was sure a workshop on the legislation's impact on local governments was needed in our area," Miles said. "I have requested the assistance from the Local Government Partnership (a collaboration of the East West Gateway Council of Governments and UM – St. Louis) to host a workshop on the administrative requirements and implementation issues for local jurisdictions including townships, cities, and villages in Madison County."

The workshop is planned for late February and information will be available at the Township office and on the Township's website, www.toi.org/edwardsvilletownship.

"I am excited to bring leaders from around the area together to share with the Township and other local governments their best practices regarding this law and its implementation," said Miles.

Edwardsville Township is comprised of the City of Edwardsville, Village of Glen Carbon and unincorporated areas just outside of these two municipalities. The Township Supervisor's office is located at 300 West Park in Edwardsville and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Learn more about Edwardsville Township online at <http://townships.toi.org/edwardsvilletownship/> or contact the Township Offices by phone at 618-656-0292.

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