

# Laws For Folder Type Knives

More and more Cities and Counties are putting their ordinances online. The best way to find out the ordinances of any City/Co is to go to Municode and click on your state and see if they city you want to find info about is listed or County you want info about is not listed go to Google and type in NAME of City comma STATE and then ORDINANCES. This will most likely bring up a link to the City or County you are seeking information about. The just part of their knife laws giving length laws as found in their laws. Municode Link is below

**Most States Ban knives in Schools. Know the Law!**

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[How to Measure Blade Length.](#)

[Links Checked: 3/15/2025](#)

**Notice:** Finding Local Ordinances has gotten easier. Try these four sites. They are adding local government listing frequently.

[Amer. Legal Pub.](#)

[Code Publishing](#)

[Municode](#)

[Quality Code Publishing](#)

[AKTI American Knife & Tool Institute Knife Laws by State](#)

Admins E-Mail: [admins@handgunlaw.us](mailto:admins@handgunlaw.us)

[Go to Part 2](#)

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**Most States Ban knives in Schools. Know the Law!**

In many states Knife Laws are not well defined. Some states say very little about knives. We have put together **information on carrying a folding type knife in your pocket.** We consider carrying a knife in this fashion as being concealed. We are not attorneys and post this information as a starting point for you to take up the search even more. Case Law may have a huge influence on knife laws in all the states. Case Law is even harder to find references to. It up to you to know the law. Definitions for the different types of knives are at the bottom of the listing. Many states still Switchblades, Gravity, Ballistic, Butterfly, Balisong, Dirk, Gimlet, Stiletto and Toothpick Knives.

State	Law Title/Chapt/Sec	Legal Yes/No Folder/Length	Short description from the law. Wording edited to fit. Click on state or city name for more information
United States	USC Title 15 Chpt. 29- § 1241- § 1245		Switchblade and Ballistic Knives are Illegal
United States	USC Title18 - Part I - Chpt. 44 - § 930	< 2.5"	“dangerous weapon” does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length.

<b>Alabama</b>	13A-11-50 13A-11-55	Y	No Defined Knife Length in AL Law.
Decatur, AL	16-22.1.		illegal to carry a bowie knife or knife or instrument of like kind or description
Elba, AL	50-87.		illegal to carry a bowie knife or knife or instrument of like kind or description,
Enterprise, AL	14-25.		illegal to carry a bowie knife or knife or instrument of like kind or description
Gadsden, AL	90-61.		Illegal to crry a Bowie knife, switchblade, long-bladed knife, or knife of like kind or similar nature,
Fairhope, AL	14-6.	Y <3"	any knife of whatever nature containing a blade more than three (3) inches long,
Huntsville, AL			No Code Found concerning Knives.
Lankett, AL	20-6.		Pawn Shops to not sell or take in or any knife with a blade exceeding four (4) inches in length.
Midfield, Al	Sec. 36-73	Y <3"	or other knife having a blade three inches or more in length,
Montgomery, AL	18-111	Y >3"	any knife of whatsoever nature containing a blade more than three inches long
	18-114		No weapon/knife of any kind allowed on School Property or on School Transportation.
Montevallo, AL	18-111		any knife of whatsoever nature containing a blade more than three inches long
Mountain Brook, AL	13-53.	Y <3"	or other knife having a blade of three (3) inches or more in length
Muscle Shoals, AL	70-82.		or other knife or instrument of like kind or description,
Opp, AL	10-14	Y Except	No Knife of any kind while on school property within the police jurisdiction of the city
Pell City, AL	13-25	NO	It shall be unlawful for any person to carry off of his premises any knife or instrument of like kind

Saraland, AL	15-2.	Y 3"	with a blade more than three (3) inches in length
Tuscaloosa, AL	19-5	Y <4"	with the exception of pocket knives ... with a blade of less than four (4) inches
Tuscumbia, AL	11-7.	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three (3) inches or more in length,
Vestavia Hills, AL	11-7.	Y <3"	knife having a blade of three (3) inches or more in length,

<b>Alaska</b>	<b>11.61.210</b>	<b>Y None</b>	<b>Law states "Ordinary Pocket Knife". No Defined Knife Length in AK Law. Sept. 18, 2013 New AK law Preempts all local Knife Laws and no local government can have knife laws more strict than the state law.</b>
<del>Anchorage, AK</del>	<del>8.25.020 &amp; 8.25.060</del>		<del>other than an ordinary folded pocket knife (blade stored in handle and requires a physical pull to open knife.</del>
<del>Fairbanks, AK</del>	<del>46-291. &amp; 46-294. &amp; 46-79.</del>	<del>Y 3.5"</del>	<del>knife other than an ordinary pocketknife having a blade not more than 3 1/2 inches in length. Not on School Property.</del>
<del>Hydaburg, AK</del>	<del>9.20.010</del>		<del>"Dangerous weapon" means any knife other than an ordinary pocket knife</del>
<del>Kotzebue, AK</del>	<del>9.86.020</del>	<del>Y 3"</del>	<del>No person shall wear under his clothes, or conceal about his person any knife with a blade over three inches in length</del>
<del>Juneau, AK</del>	<del>42.20.085</del>	<del>Y 3"</del>	<del>any knife equipped with a blade over three inches in length.</del>
<del>Palmer, AK</del>	<del>9.73.010 &amp; 9.73.020</del>	<del>Y ?</del>	<del>"There are places off limits where sheathed knives can not be carried. Check Laws.</del>

<b>Am. Samoa</b>	<b>46.4201 thru 46.4203</b>	<b>Y 4"</b>	<b>For purposes of this chapter, "knife" does not include an ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than 4" in length.</b>
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<b>Arizona</b>	<b>13-3120.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>State Preempted all local laws. Knives are not allowed in schools. There is no blade length laws.</b>
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<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>5-73-120.</b>	<b>Y &lt;3"</b>	<b>"Knife" means any bladed hand instrument three inches (3") or longer</b>
Ft. Smith, AR	Appendix A Personnel	Y <3.5"	City Employees on the job. No bladed (a blade of three and one-half (3 1/2) inches or longer) hand instrument
Eureka Springs, AR	7.32.01	Y 3.5"	blade of which is over three (3) inches in length,
Texarkana, AR	15-12.		while aboard public transit system vehicles/at public transit facilities and other transit locations: Carry A Knife.

<b>California</b>	<b>Penal Code 20310 thru 21590</b>	<b>Y No Limit</b>	<b>Jim March in his CA knife Law paper states there is no blade length for Pocket knives. No Knife with a blade Longer Than 2 ½ inches on the grounds of any Private/Public College or University (626.10)</b>
<del>Los Angeles Co. CA</del>	<del>13.62.010 13.62.020</del>	<del>Y &lt;3"</del>	<del>shall include any knife having a blade of three inches or more in length; unlawful for any person to carry on his person, in plain view, any knife</del>
Alameda Co. CA	9.12.050	Y <3"	Any knife having a blade three inches or more in length
Belmont, CA	15-22	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three (3) inches or more in length,
Ceres, CA	9.12.010	Y <3"	Any knife having a blade three inches (3") or more in length,
Chino, CA	9.84.010	Y <3"	Any knife with a blade three inches or more in length,
Chino Hills, CA	12.40.170 & 12,40,240	Y <3"	in city parks, any knife having a blade of three inches or more in length
Citrus Heights, CA	33-73	Y <3"	any knife having a blade measuring from the handle of three (3) inches or more in length, any knife that will not shut,
Colton, CA	12-7	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three inches or more in length,
Colusa, CA	12-7	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three inches or more in length,
Commerce, CA	9.16.051	Y <3"	shall include any knife, dirk or dagger having a blade of three inches or more in length;
Contra Costa, Co. CA	9.16.050	Y <3"	shall include any knife, dirk or dagger having a blade of three inches or more in length;
Corte Madera, CA	9.16.051	Y <3"	shall include any knife, dirk or dagger having a blade of three inches or more in length;
Costa Mesa, CA	12-57		In "Skate Parks" No person shall have a dangerous weapon in his/her possession. Deadly weapons shall include, knives,

E. Palo Alto, CA	9.24.010	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three inches or more in length
Fontana, CA	16-131	Y <3"	Any knife with a blade three inches or more in length;
Glendale, CA	9.24.050	Y <3"	having a blade three (3) inches or more in length,
Lake Forest, CA	13.04.010	Y <3"	having a blade of three inches or more in length in any Park or Recreation Facility
Marin Co. CA	6.52.010	Y <3"	Conceals any knife with a blade three inches or more in length on them on in a vehicle.
Maywood, CA	4-4.01	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three (3") inches or more in length
Mendota, CA	9.24.020	Y 2"	possess a knife with a blade longer than 2" while being present in any establishment serving alcoholic beverages.
Mission Viejo, CA	13.04	Y <3"	No person shall carry on his person, in plain view, any knife 3" or longer in any City Park
Modesto, CA	4-2.03.1	Y <3"	Dangerous Weapon ... Any knife having a blade three inches or more in length
Morro Bay, CA	9.04.030		No Possession or Carrying of Knife during declared Emergency.
Mountain View, CA	21.9	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three (3) inches or more in length,
Newark, CA	12.16.240		In Parks knife other than pocket knife, capable of cutting, defacing or mutilating trees or shrubs
Oakland, CA.	9.36.010	Y <3"	Any knife having a blade three inches or more in length,
Orange, CA	5.72.075		During Special Pageant no carry of any knife
Pasadena, CA	9.84.020	Y <5"	in a concealed manner, any knife or other similar instrument with a blade or sharp edge 5 inches or longer
Patterson, CA	9.36.010	Y <3"	Any knife having a blade three or more inches in length
Perris, CA	7.22.040	Y <3"	In Parks. Recreation Facilities: No person shall carry in plain view, any knife with a blade in excess of three inches
Pismo Beach, CA	9.16.030	Y <3"	No person shall wear or carry in plain view any knife upon any public street or place or place open to the public.
Pittsburg, CA	9.92.040	Y <3"	unlawful for any person to carry concealed upon his person any knife having a blade three (3) inches or more
Plumas Co, CA	5-7.01	Y <3.5"	Carry on Fairgrounds any knife with a blade over three and one-half (3½") inches in length
Redding, CA	10.56.010	Y <3"	"dangerous or deadly weapon" means any knife with a blade three inches or more in length
Richmond, CA	11.12.010	Y <3"	Any knife having a blade three inches or more in length
Sacramento Co. CA	9.32.010	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three inches or more in length;
Salinas, CA	21-44 & 21-56.	Y <3"	The term "dangerous or deadly weapon" includes, or knife other than a pocket knife,
San Anselmo, CA	4-5.03	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three (3") inches or more in length
San Juan Capa, CA	5-21.01.	Y <3"	blade of three (3) inches or more in length
San Mateo Co. CA	3.16.010	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three inches (3") or more in length,
Sierra Madre, CA	9.28.020	Y <3"	any knife with a blade three inches or more in length
Temecula, CA	12.04.010 & 12.04.110	Y <3"	having a blade of three inches or more in length
Windsor, CA	15-32	Y <4"	Knife with a blade length in excess of four inches, not allowed in City Hall
West Covina, CA	15-32	Y <4"	Knife with a blade length in excess of four inches, not allowed in City Hall
Westlake Vill., CA	4.3.005.	Y <3"	carry in plain view on his or her person any knife having a blade of three or more inches

<b>Colorado</b>	<b>18-12-101 thru 18-12-111</b>	<b>Y 3.5"</b>	<b>prosecution must prove that defendant intended to use this short-bladed knife as a weapon.</b>
Aspen, CO	Sec. 15.04.170		unlawful for any person to knowingly carry a knife or firearm concealed on or about his or her person.
Aurora, CO	94-141.	Y 3.5"	<i>Knife</i> means any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over 3 1/2 inches in length,
Bayfield, CO	Sec. 9-37	Y 3.5"	A knife shall mean any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over three and one-half inches in length,
Boulder CO.	5/8/2009	Y ?	No person shall have a knife or firearm concealed on or about such person's body
Commerce City, CO	14-111.	Y 3.5"	with a blade over three and one-half (3½) inches in length

Cortez, CO	Sec. 15-311		No firearms, knives, or other weapons shall be permitted in a marijuana center except those carried by sworn peace officers.
Denver CO.	38-117 & 38-119.	Y 3.5"	having a blade greater than three and one-half (3 1/2) inches in length,
Durango, CO	17-116	Y 3.5"	<i>Knife</i> or <i>knives</i> means dagger, dirk, knife or stiletto with a blade over (3½) inches in length
Englewood, CO	7-6C-0: thru 7-6C5	Y 3.5"	<i>Knife</i> means any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over 3 1/2 inches in length,
Federal Heights, CO	38-156	Y 3.5"	Carrying a folding-type knife with a blade not exceeding 3½ inches in length.
Fowler, CO	9.36.010	Y 3.5"	knife with a blade over 3 1/2" in length, Does not apply to those with Permit/License to Carry.
Lafayette, CO	75-46. thru 75-52	Y 3.5"	<i>Knife</i> means any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over 3 1/2 inches in length,
Leadville, Co	9.36.010	Y 3.5"	knife, or stiletto with a blade over three and one-half inches in length,
Longmont, CO	10.02.010 & 10.28.020	Y 3.5"	knife or stiletto with a blade more than three and one-half inches in length
Manitou Springs, CO	9.52.010 & 9.52.020 & 9.52.030	Y 3.5"	with a blade over three and one-half inches in length
New Castle, CO	9.64.010 & 9.64.050	Y 3.5"	with a blade over three and one-half inches in length,
Oak Creek, CO	9.40.030	Y 3.5"	Carries a knife with a blade over three and one-half inches in length concealed on or about his person;
Pueblo, CO	Sec. 11-1-601	Y 3.5"	a. Any dagger, dirk, knife or stiletto with a blade over three and one-half (3½) inches in length;
Sheridan, CO	50-288. thru 50-294	Y 3.5"	<i>Knife</i> means any dagger, dirk, knife, or stiletto with a blade over 3 1/2 inches in length,
Silt, CO	9.32.020	Y <3.5"	knives having blades less than three and one-half inches shall not be considered dangerous or deadly weapons
Steamboat Sps. CO	10-169.	Y 3.5"	any knife having a blade of more than 3 1/2 inches in length
Thornton, CO	38-236 thru 38-239 & 42-156.	Y 3.5"	as measured from the hilt, over three and one-half inches in length,
Wheat Ridge, CO	16-81. thru 16-86	Y 3.5"	with a blade over three and one-half (3 1/2) inches in length,
Woodland Park, CO	9.70.010 thru 9.70.060	Y 3.5"	knives having blades less than three and one-half inches shall not be considered dangerous and deadly weapons.

<b>Connecticut</b>	943-53-206 529-29-38	Y <4"	Legal to carry a knife longer than 4 Inches if valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. salt water fisherman carrying such knife for lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities, Illegal to transport in vehicle illegal knives
Cheshire, CT	20-11	?	No Knives in Parks or Recreation Facilities
Coventry, CT	Sec. 70-77	Y 4"	No person shall possess a knife with a blade more than four inches in length within a park
Bristol, CT	16-2.	Y <4"	within the public parks of the city or any knife the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches or over in length
New London, CT	18-110.	Y 3"	"Dangerous weapon" shall be defined but not limited to knives of any kind or type having a blade in excess of 3" in length,

<b>Delaware</b>	11-2-222	Y 3"	Law only covers an ordinary folding pocketknife carried in a closed position
Dover, DE	74-24.	Y 3"	knife with a blade more than three inches long.
New Castle, Co. DE	24.01.014.	Y <3"	In Parks & Rec Areas can't carry a knife upon his or her person having a blade three (3) inches or longer
Newark, DE	2-71.	Y <3"	In Parks & Rec Areas can't carry a knife upon his or her person having a blade three (3) inches or longer

<b>DC</b>	22-4514 & 10-503.26.	Y 3"	Knife with a blade over 3 inches
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<b>Florida</b>	XLVI-790-06 & 18 & 115 & 225	None	Must be 21 to carry a concealed knife. See HB 453 Case law allowed folding type knife 4" or less.
Alachua Co. FL	113.01. & 123.40.	Y 3"	the blade does not exceed a three-inch length. / No Knife of any length in court houses /
Altamonte Sps., FL	12-37.		Whoever shall carry concealed arms of any kind except a common pocket knife,
Belle Glade, FL	18-68.		or by carrying any arms, such as pistols, knives except small pen or pocket knives,
Boca Raton, FL	13-100. thru 13-102		unlawful to carry, possess or display any weapon while participating in any special event/demonstration.

Bradenton Beach, FL	6-33.	Y 2.5"	possess any folding knife with a blade that exceeds 2 1/2 inches in length.
Broward Co. FL	2.2		No Knives allowed in Airport Terminal.
Casselberry, FL	62-1903.		City Employees can't possess a knife of any kind even in their Auto on City Property.
Citrus Co. FL	58-78.		No Weapons in Court House including knives commonly referred to as pocket knives
Coconut Creek, FL	17-27. & 21-12.2.		carry any knife while participating in a parade/picket line/group demonstration/block party.. Emp. on City Property
Coral Gables, FL	62-186.		at any special event, parade or public assembly to carry or possess any weapon, Knife
Crestview, FL	54-7.	Y <3"	knife (other than a small pocket knife with its blades under three inches in length)
Delray Beach, FL	132.02.		by carrying any arms, such as pistols, knives (except pocket knives),
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	26-202.1.		Parade and public assembly prohibitions (no knives.)
Ft. Pierce. FL	11-15.	Y <4"	an ordinary pocket knife containing a blade not longer than four (4) inches.
Gainesville, FL	17-5.	Y 3"	In City owned buildings, pocket knife, provided the blade of the pocket knife does not exceed a three-inch length.
Gulfport, FL	14-55.		It shall be unlawful to carry or have concealed about one's person or other weapon except a common pocket knife
Lake Wales, FL	Sec. 18-82		Prohibited acts in city parks and facilities . . . shall any person carry on his or her person, in plain view, any knife
Miami Beach, FL	106-375.		Any participant in a demonstration, rally, picket line or parade within the city who carries a knife
Oakland, FL	50-53.		It shall be unlawful for any person other than an authorized office to carry a knife
Oakland Park, FL	8-16.		are prohibited from carrying secretly about their person any clasp knife, more than an ordinary pocketknife.
Palm Beach Co. FL	1-1.		<i>Weapon</i> shall mean a knife, or any other like instrument utilized to coerce, intimidate or injure an individual.
Port Orange, FL	58-51.		At Special Events knife, hatchet or any other instrument customarily used or intended for use as a dangerous weapon.
Sarasota, FL	21-143.		No person shall carry or have concealed about his person any weapon, except a common pocket knife.
South Daytona, FL	10-3.		No person shall carry or have concealed about his person any weapon, except a common pocket knife.
South Miami, FL	15-15. & 15-18.		are prohibited from carrying secretly about their person any clasp knife, more than an ordinary pocketknife.
Starke, FL	66-34.		are prohibited from carrying secretly about their person any clasp knife, more than an ordinary pocketknife.

<b>Georgia</b>	16-11-126 & 16-11-136	12 inches	16-11-136 is the Georgia Preemption Statute that includes Knives 12 inches or less.
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<b>Guam</b>	Unk		
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<b>Hawaii</b>	134-12.5 & 134-51 thru 134-53	Y None	"Other deadly or dangerous weapon" is limited to instruments whose sole design and purpose is to inflict bodily injury or death. 55 H. 531, 523 P.2d 299. / A "diver's knife" is neither a "dangerous weapon" nor a "dagger". "Deadly and dangerous weapon" is one designed primarily as a weapon or diverted from normal use and prepared for combat. 56 H. 374, 537 P.2d 14. There is no Length limit found in HI Law.
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<b>Idaho</b>	18-3301. & 18-3302	Y 6"	Except in the person's place of abode or fixed place of business, a person shall not carry a concealed weapon In Courthouses, Jails, Juvenile Detention Facilities & Schools no blade length less than 2 ½ inches is not a deadly or dangerous weapon. Per 18-3327 no Local Government can have a knife ordinance more strict than state law.
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~~Boise, ID~~

~~Stanley, ID~~

<b>Illinois</b>	<b>720 ILCS 5/24-1 &amp; 720 ILCS 5/33A-1</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Knife Length only mentioned in IL law when knife is used in a felony offense.</b>
Auburn, IL	18-47.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Beach Park, IL	9.08.040	No	concealed about his person any other dangerous or deadly weapon
Bourbonnais, IL	22-13.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Braidwood, IL	58-222.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Buffalo Grove, IL	9.28.010	?	Carries or possesses with intent to use unlawfully against another, a dangerous knife
Burbank, IL	9-21.	Y >3"	a knife over three (3) inches in length or carried in a sheath;
Calumet City, IL	62-251.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Carol Stream, IL	14-3-15	Y <3"	Any knife having a fixed or locking blade which is three or more inches in length;
Carpentersville, IL	13-29		Any Knife on any School Property when Under 21 years of age
Centralia, IL	13-29		Any Knife on any School Property when Under 21 years of age
Chicago	8-24-020	Y 2.5"	any knife with blade greater than two and a half inches is illegal,
Chicago Hts. IL	30-101. & 30-62.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Cicero, IL	62-191. & 62-6.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Cook Co. IL	46-62.	?	Contraband. .... Knife
Crete, IL	13-29		Any Knife on any School Property when Under 21 years of age
Davis Junction, IL	Sec. 30-31		possess, carry or use in any way in the park system any knives
DeKalb Co, IL	30-123.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Galesburg, IL	3-101.	No	knife or other deadly weapon within any licensed premises.
Jacksonville, IL	Sec. 18-15		Disorderly conduct. All persons who shall have or carry any pistol, knife
Loves Park, IL	54-240.	Y <1.5"	Any person who shall within the city possess carry any knife, the blade of which is longer than 1 1/2 " in length,
McCook, IL	54-162. & 6-4.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Ottawa, IL	Sec. 62-202		Shall not carry about his person any concealed pistol, knife, razor, slingshot
Park City, IL	9.32.010	Y <3"	Illegal to carry a knife with a blade of at least three inches in length
Peoria Co. IL	7.3-31.	No	No Knife in Court House.
Peoria, IL	20-188.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Pontiac, IL	16-30.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Roselle, IL	13-9.	?	No person shall carry concealed about his person a knife or other dangerous or deadly weapons
Round Lake Hgts, IL	5/4/2004	Y 3"	Carries concealed in any vehicle or concealed on or about his or her person, knife with a blade in excess of three inches (3")
Savoy, IL	12.28.190	?	shall possess, have, or carry any... Hunting Knife
South Beloit, IL	Sec. 62-207	Y 3"	Illegal to possess or carry any knife which has a blade longer than three inches in length;
Stickney, IL	54-10.	Y 3"	bring, carry, have in his vehicle any knife having a blade longer than 3" in any park,
Vandalia, IL	9.24.010	Y 3"	No person shall carry or wear under his or her clothes or concealed or knife in excess of three inches,
Wheeling, IL	8.18.010	Y <3"	any type of knife, the blade of which is three inches in length or longer.

<b>Indiana</b>	<b>35-47-5-2. &amp; 35-47-5-2.5</b>	<b>Y None</b>	<b>Possess a knife with detachable blade that may be ejected from the handle as a projectile. Not in Schools</b>
Merrillville, IN	10-25. & 10-27.	Y 2"	pocket knife, instrument apparently capable of producing bodily harm cutting/stabbing, exceeding in length by 2"
South Bend, IN	19-44		No person shall bring into or have in his possession in any park or park-street any switchblade, hunting knife,
Westfield, IN	44-1		knives or any other objects that can reasonably be considered a weapon, are strictly prohibited in any park for any reason.

<b>Iowa</b>	16-702.7. & 16-724.1. & 16-724.4.	Y 5"	702.7 A "dangerous weapon" is any instrument or device designed primarily for use in inflicting death or injury upon a human being. (Shorter knives designed for fighting are considered Weapons. No. 4-086 / 03-1638)
Cedar Rapids, IA	63.07	Y <3"	or knife having a blade of three inches or longer in length.
Council Bluffs, IA	8.75.010	Y <3"	or any knife having a blade of three inches or longer
Des Moines, IA	70-77.	?	No person shall carry whether concealed or not, any knife on primary or secondary school property within the city
<b>Kansas</b>	12-16, 134 & 21-6301	No Length Limit	Kansas preempts all local Ordinances on the carrying of knives. Effective 7/1/14 Not in Schools and Detention Centers
<b>Kentucky</b>	500.08	Y None	No Length in KY Law (4) "Deadly weapon" means any of the following: (c) Any knife other than an ordinary pocket knife or hunting knife.
Owensboro, KY	19-2.	No	Park means all parks, owned or used by the city playgrounds, ball fields, swimming pools, tennis courts etc
<b>Louisiana</b>	RS 40:1796 RS 14:95	Y ?	40:1796 is State Preemption Statute which covers knives. No auto type like a switchblade. No Carry in Schools. "School" means any elementary, secondary, high school, or vo-tech school. School means School Bus also.
<del>Baton Rouge/E Baton Rouge Parish, LA</del>	<del>13.95</del>	<del>Y</del>	<del>to have in his possession a firearm, or other instrumentality customarily used or intended for probable use as a dangerous weapon, in any premises where alcoholic beverages are sold and/or consumed on the premises</del>
<del>Bossier City, LA</del>	<del>38-277.</del>	<del>?</del>	<del>rescue knives by full-time LEO only. rescue knife" is a folding knife, readily and easily opened with one hand</del>
<del>Lake Charles, LA</del>	<del>13-28. &amp; 13-28.1</del>	<del>Y 4"</del>	<del>or any knife with a blade in excess of four inches, in an establishment where alcoholic beverages are sold.</del>
<del></del>	<del>13-28.2.</del>	<del>Y 2"</del>	<del>or any instrument with a blade in excess of two inches,</del>
<del>New Orleans, LA</del>	<del>54-342.</del>	<del>?</del>	<del>Weapons any knife, Possessing or to have in any vehicle while participating or attending a demonstration</del>
<del></del>	<del>54-410.</del>	<del>No</del>	<del>In those publicly owned, operated, or leased buildings or places where the administrators Introduce any weapon</del>
<del></del>	<del>106-296.</del>	<del>No</del>	<del>LA Nature and Science Center No Knives</del>
<del>St. Landry Parish LA</del>	<del>2-18.</del>	<del>No</del>	<del>"Dangerous weapon" includes any firearm, knife, or other bladed instrument, in court rooms</del>
<del>Sulphur, LA</del>	<del>95</del>	<del>?</del>	<del>rescue knives by full-time LEO only. rescue knife" is a folding knife, readily and easily opened with one hand</del>
<del>Terrebonne Parish, LA</del>	<del>Sec. 19-6</del>		<del>Weapons prohibited in all facilities of the 32nd Judicial Dist Ct &amp; other court facilities in the Parish including pocket knives.</del>
<del>West Monroe, LA</del>	<del>Nov-11</del>	<del>Y 3"</del>	<del>Display a pocket knife with a blade more than three (3) inches long,</del>
<b>Maine</b>	25-252-2001A	Y None	A person may not, unless excepted by law: No person may display in a threatening manner, or wear under his clothes or conceal about his person, any firearm, slung shot, knuckles, bowie knife, dirk, stiletto or other dangerous or deadly weapons usually employed in the attack on or defense of a person. No dangerous weapons in Courts. No Max Blade Length in laws.
<b>Maryland</b>	4-101 & 4-105	Y None	(ii) "Weapon" does not include: 2. a penknife without a switchblade. (Intent written into the law puts it back on the person carrying the knife. You must be carrying it without any intent to do harm. No Defined Length Limit in Laws.
Cambridge, MD	12-19.	Y 3"	knife with a blade longer than three inches conceal about his person or display in a threatening manner
Howard Co. MD	19.205.	?	knife, or any other dangerous weapon on park property;
Ocean City, MD	58-121		multiple tooled knife containing more than one blade "Swiss Army Knife" or similar generic knives are not a fighting knives. "unlawful for any person to display, possess, sell, barter, offer to sell, distribute, manufacture, give away, transfer or dispose of

			an assisted opening knife..."
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>269-10 thru 269-12 &amp; 71-37H</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>See The law sections listed. It is very wordy. (Part IV Title I 269-10)</b>
Boston, MA	16-45.1	Y 2.5"	having any type of blade in excess of two and one-half (2½) inches,
Cambridge, MA	9.16.110	Y ?	give or loan to any person under eighteen (18) years of age any ...lock back knife
Lawrence, MA	9.12.040	Y 2.5"	any knife having any type of blade in excess of two and one-half inches, (except when actually engaged in hunting or activities fishing or in going directly to and/or returning from such
New Bedford, MA	Sec. 17-8	Y 2.5"	No person, except as permitted by law, shall carry on his or her person, or carry in a vehicle under his or her control, any knife having any type of blade in excess of two and one-half (2½) inches
Revere, MA	9.20.020	Y 2.5"	knife having any type of blade in excess of two and one-half inches
Salem, MA	24-5.	Y 2.5"	any knife having any type of blade in excess of 2 1/2 inches, except when actually engaged in hunting,
Somerville, MA	9-96.	Y 2.5"	any knife having any type of blade in excess of 2 1/2 inches, except when actually engaged in hunting,

<b>Michigan**</b>	<b>Act 328 of 1931 750-226</b>	<b>Y 3"</b>	<b>It's illegal to carry anything above a 3" statutory limit with intent to use unlawfully.</b>
Allen Park, MI	Sec. 26-414	Y 3"	It shall be unlawful for any person to be in possession of a knife with a blade more than three inches in length
Alpena, MI	Sec. 54-2	Y 3"	The following acts shall constitute disorderly conduct, no person shall: knife having a blade over three inches in length
Ann Arbor, MI	0.560416667	Y 3"	Knife having a blade longer than 4". Knife with a mechanism to lock the blade opened, longer than 3".
Atlas TWP, MI	(Genesee Co.) 94.051	Y 3"	It shall be unlawful for any person to be in possession of a knife with a blade more than three inches in length,
Auburn Hills, MI	46-170	Y 3"	or other knife with a blade that exceeds three inches
Aurelius TWP, MI	Sec. 12-33		Conduct on park property. No person shall have in their possession or control any knife,
Bath Charter TWP	Sec. 46-33		Possess knife or other dangerous weapon in Parks and Recreation Areas
Birmingham, MI	74-214.	Y 3"	carry or use in any manner any knife with a blade in excess of three inches
Buchanan , MI	Sec. 58-188	Y 3"	any knife with a blade in excess of three inches,
Byron TWP, MI	(Kent Co.) Sec. 28-22	Y 3"	On Park Property <i>Dangerous weapon</i> means any or knife having a blade over three inches in length
Center Line, MI	46-266.	No	carry or use in any manner any knife,
Dearborn, MI	14-261	Y 3"	or carry or use in any manner any knife having a blade over three inches
Dearborn Height, MI	20-333.	Y 3"	any knife with a blade in excess of three (3) inches,
Delhi Charter TWP	(Ingham Co) Sec. 10-117	Y 3"	Illegal: Pocket knives with blades over three (3) inches
Detroit, MI	38-10-39. thru 38-10-44.	Y 3"	be in possession of a knife with a blade more than three (3) inches in length
DeWitt, MI	46-43.	Y 3"	A person who carries a knife having a blade of three inches or more
DeWitt Charter TWP	(Clinton Co) Sec. 26-139	Y 3"	It shall be unlawful for a person to carry a knife having a blade of three inches in length or more
East Lansing, MI	26-62. & 26-194.	Y 3 or 4"	A knife, either folding or non-folding, in excess of 4" / 3" in City Parks Recreation Facilities.
Eastpointe, MI	Sec. 28-184		No person, in any school building/land owned/occupied/used by any school, shall use, possess, carry or conceal knives,
Fenton, MI	20-94	Y 3"	unlawful for any person to be in possession of a knife with a blade more than three inches in length
Ferndale, MI	12-85. & 12-136.	Y 3"	possess a knife, whose blade is three inches or more in length
Flint Charter TWP	(Genesee Co.) Sec. 6.13-3	Y 3"	No person shall be in possession of a knife with a blade more than three inches in length,
Fowlerville, MI	54-167	Y 3"	carry or use in any manner any knife with a blade in excess of three inches
Fraser, MI	16-143.	?	nonfolding stabbing instrument of any length;



Grand Blanc Chrtr TWP	(Genesee Co.)	Sec. 12-54	Y 3"	or knife having a blade over three inches in length,
Grosse Pt. Shores, MI		20-411. & 20-412.	Y 3"	sharp-edged or sharp-pointed instrument or weapon in excess of three inches in length.
Grosse Pt. Woods MI		54-291 & 54-244 & 54-216.	Y 3"	knife with a blade in excess of three inches in length
Harper Woods, MI		Sec. 14-58	Y 3"	unlawful to carry or to have concealed or in any vehicle occupied by him other stationary blade knife exceeding (3")
Hastings, MI		54-83.	Y 3"	knife having a blade over three inches in length.
Highland Park, MI		692.07 & 1062.06	Y 3"	possess a knife with a blade more than 3" in length / No in City Park, Play ground, School or School Rec area.
Holland, MI		20-12.	Y 3"	knife having a blade over three (3) inches in length,
Independence Charter TWP	(Oakland Co)	Sec. 30-122	Y 3"	Loitering with a knife with a blade that exceeds three inches,
Jackson, MI		18-185.	?	dangerous weapon except hunting knives adapted and carried as such.
Kalamazoo, MI		22-55.	?	any knife in Schools
Lake Odessa, MI		18-328.	Y 3"	any knife with a blade in excess of three inches,
Lansing, MI		696.04. & 696.05	Y 3"	any knife having a blade over 3" / student, guest or other person shall not have A knife on any College Campus
Lathrup, MI		46-76.	Y 3"	a knife, whose blade is three inches or more in length,
Livonia, MI		9.94.020 & 9.94.060 & 9.94.070	Y 3"	knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length,
Lyon Charter TWP		Sec. 26-301	Y 3"	unlawful to possess a knife with Blade 3" Long or Longer, concealed or unconcealed on his person/passenger area of vehicle
Melvindale, MI		Sec. 15-184	Y 3"	unlawful for any person to possess or control, any knife with a blade in excess of three inches,
Menominee, MI		Sec. 14-90	Y 3"	to carry or conceal any knife except otherwise permitted by law
Milan, MI		Sec. 13-33	Y 3"	shall carry a knife having a blade over (3") concealed on or about his person, or in any motor vehicle occupied by him
Mundy Charter TWP	(Genesee Co)	Sec. 18-130	Y 3"	A knife with a blade in excess of three inches,
Novi, MI		22-128. & 22-129.	Y 3.5"	blade is by length greater than three and one-half (3 1/2) inches.
Oak Park, MI		50-294.	Y 3"	knife having a blade over three inches in length
Orchard Lake VLGS		9.06.166	Y 3"	Unlawful to have in his possession or control, except within his own domicile, any knife with a blade in excess of 3"
Owosso, MI		19-128.	Y 3"	blades which exceed three (3) inches in length
Plainfield Charter TWP	(Kent Co)	Sec. 26-43		knives and clubs shall be brought into the township park
Plymouth, MI		54-201.	Y 3"	knife having a blade over three inches in length,
Pontiac, MI		86-266.	Y 3"	knife with a blade that exceeds three inches
Richmond, MI		54-223.	Y 3"	knife with a blade in excess of three inches,
Rogers City, MI		Sec. 19-357	Y 3"	unlawful to carry on in passenger compartment of vehicle dangerous weapon, including jackknife with blade/s exceeding 3"
Romeo, MI		26-279.	?	Knife or any form of weapon potentially dangerous to human safety on School, Grounds, Building, Activity
Royal Oak Chrtr TWP	(Oakland Co)	Sec. 16-145	Y <3"	Possession in public, etc. Knives having a three-inch or longer blade prohibited;
Saline, MI		58-186.	Y 3"	knife having a blade over three inches in length,
South Lyon, MI		Sec. 58-84	Y 3"	unlawful for any person to possess any knife with a blade more than (3") in length in any street or public place.
South Rockwood, MI		Sec. 16-259	Y 3"	No person shall possess/control, except in his own domicile, or carry/use in any manner, any knife with a blade exceeding 3"
Spring Lake TWP	(Ottawa Co)	Sec. 26-19	Y 3½	In Parks Any knife with a blade longer than 3½ inches;
St. Clair Co. MI		38-229.	?	any knife, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto or any other sharp edged or pointed instrument or weapon,
Sumpter Township	(Wayne Co)	Sec. 14-261	Y 3"	Dangerous weapon means any firearm, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto or knife having a blade over three (3) inches in length
Swartz Creek, MI		Sec. 10-219	Y 3"	It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a knife having a blade over three inches in length.
Taylor, MI		19-226.	?	All weapons, knives, other sharp edged or pointed instruments carried are hereby declared forfeited to the city
Warren, MI		22-168.	Y 3"	knife having a blade over three (3) inches in length

Westland, MI	62-283.	Y 3"	Any knife with a blade which exceeds three inches in length;
Woodhaven, MI	66-447 & 66-452 & 66-453	Y 3"	knife with a blade in excess of three inches,
Wyandotte, MI	25-98.	Y 3"	knife with a blade more than three (3) inches in length
Wyoming, MI	50-266.	Y 3"	A knife shall be defined as an instrument having a handle and at least one sharp edged blade over 3" long.
Ypsilanti, MI	74-126 & 74-54	Y 3"	knife having a blade three inches in length or longer, / Give good reason to have Knife.
			** Michigan will allow persons who are missing an arm to own and use switchblade knives. Check with your Chief of Police if you are missing an arm.

<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>609.66</b>	<b>Y None</b>	<b>possesses any other dangerous article or substance for the purpose of being used unlawfully as a weapon against another.</b>
Bayport, MN	Sec. 26-28		The following are declared to be public nuisances affecting the public peace and safety: Any person possessing a knife,
Blaine, MN	50-111 & 50-114		Deadly weapons concealed or in public park. Deadly weapons means the following: Daggers, dirks and knives.
Eagan, MN	10.10.		Weapon: any device designed as weapon capable of producing death/bodily harm. Any double-edged knife
Minneapolis, MN	393.10. 393.60.	Y 4"	"Weapon" does not include, except when used as a weapon, a folding knife with a blade of 4" or less in length, any knife or weapon in any school building/grounds school bus, school parking area or sidewalks adjacent thereto
St. Paul, MN	225.01	Y 4"	a folding knife with a blade in excess of four (4) inches,
Stillwater, MN	Sec. 52-4		No Knives on School Property
Woodbury, MN	Sec. 16-55	Y 3"	No person shall possess or carry in any public site or open space any knife with a blade greater than 3"

<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>97-37-1 / 37-5 / 37-7 &amp; 97-37-17 / 37-19</b>	<b>Y None</b>	<b>bowie knife, dirk knife, butcher knife, switchblade knife are illegal but pocket knives are not mentioned. No Length Limit in MS Law. Not on School Grounds</b>
Jackson, MS	86-12	?	deadly weapons as referred to in state law can be brought into a meeting of the council, or a political rally, parade or other official political meeting in or on any building or property owned, leased or used by the city
Southaven, MS	Sec. 8-40		Additional regulations governing the conduct of bingo games: No person at a bingo game may be in possession of a knife
Tupelo, MS	19-4.	Y 3.5"	knives, the cutting blade of which is longer than three and one-half (3.5) inches,
Vicksburg, MS	17-163.	Y 4"	any other knife with a blade over four (4) inches long and not used as a hand tool

<b>Missouri</b>	<b>571.010 thru 571.020</b>	<b>Y 4"</b>	<b>"knife" does not include any ordinary pocketknife with no blade more than four inches in length;</b>
Ballwin, MO	17-54.	Y 2.5"	Conceal or carry about the person having a blade in excess of 2 1/2 inches in length;
Ava, MO	62-178.	Y ?	Carries concealed on or about his person a knife, firearm, blackjack or any other weapon capable of lethal use;
Belton, MO	Sec. 15-107	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length
Blackjack, MO	11-55.	Y ?	Carries concealed on or about his person a knife, firearm, blackjack or any other weapon capable of lethal use;
Boonville, MO	Sec. 14-4	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocketknife with no blade more than four (4) inches in length
Branson, MO	Sec. 58-97	Y 4"	Deadly weapon means any knife (excluding an ordinary pocket knife with no blade longer than four inches)
Butler, MO	14-76.	Y ?	Carries concealed on or about his person a knife, firearm, blackjack or any other weapon capable of lethal use;
Cameron, MO	8-30.	Y 4"	The word "knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four (4) inches in length.
Cape Girardeau, MO	17-96.	Y 4"	The word "knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four (4) inches in length.
Carthage, MO	13-145.		Carries concealed upon or about his person a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use.
Clinton, MO	17-121.	Y 4"	The word "knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four (4) inches in length.

Columbia, MO	Sec. 16-246		goes into any courthouse, church, school or any other public meeting carrying a knife
Crestwood, MO	Sec. 16-3		Carries concealed upon or about his or her person a knife, or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use
Creve Coeur, MO	18-172.		Carries concealed upon or about his person a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use.
Des Peres, MO	16-186.	Y 4"	The word "knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four (4) inches in length.
Grandview, MO	17-41		Carries concealed upon or about his person a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use.
Hillsboro, MO	14-14. & 14-14.2.	Y 4"	The word "knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four (4) inches in length.
Independence, MO	12.03.001. & 12.03.002. & 12.03.008.	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Jackson, MO	45-500.	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Joplin, MO	82-191.		Carries concealed upon or about his person a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use.
Kansas City, MO	50-261		Carries concealed upon or about his person a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use.
Ladue, MO	18-80. & 18.81.	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Lamar, MO	15-3.		Carries concealed upon or about his person a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use.
Lee's Summit, MO	17-161.	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Liberty, MO	22-8.	Y <3.5"	Carry a knife (other than pocket knife with 3.5" Blade Max in/on Taxi, Cab or other public vehicle
Licking, MO	58-331. & 58-333.	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Maplewood, MO	22-103.	Y 2.5"	having a blade in excess of two and one-half (2 1/2) inches in length
Maryland Heights, MO	Sec. 14-12	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocketknife with a blade up to four (4) inches in length.
Mexico, MO	Sec. 10-181	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four (4) inches in length.
Montgomery City, MO	Sec. 36-298	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocketknife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Nixa, MO	Sec. 16-142	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocketknife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Olivette, MO	170.010.	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Perryville, MO	9.04.010	Y <4"	concealed weapons upon or about his person a knife with a blade equal in length or longer than four inches
Pleasant Hill, MO	Sec. 28-336	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Raymore, MO	Sec. 210.330		Carries concealed a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use;
Raytown, MO	13-67.	Y 4"	"knife" does not include any ordinary pocket knife with no blade more than four inches in length.
Springfield, MO	78-257.	Y 4"	Dangerous and incapacitating instruments shall include knives with blades in excess of four (4) inches
Warrensburg, MO	Sec. 14-116		Carries concealed a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use;
Webster Groves, MO	70.225.		Carries concealed a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use;
West Plains, MO	58-74.		Carries concealed a knife or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use;

## [Go to Part 2](#)

[Is There a 50 State Legal Knife?](#) (Article by Daniel C. Lawson, Attorney and Knife Expert)

Other Knife Law Links (Not affiliated with Handgunlaw.us nor is Handgunlaw.us responsible for any of their content) These give you a place to start on finding more information on Knives.

[Knife Rights Org](#)

[Bernard Levine Knife Laws](#)

Is essentially a heavy dagger with a pointed, straight 12-20 inch blade. The "toothpick" is balanced and weighted for throwing and can also be used for thrusting . and slashing

### **Bowie Knife**

The historical Bowie knife was not a single design, but was a series of knives improved several times by Jim Bowie over the years. The version most commonly known as the historical Bowie knife was rather large and of massive construction, as knives go, usually having a blade of at least 6" (15cm) in length, some reaching 12 inches (30cm) or more, with a relatively broad blade that was an inch and a half to two inches wide (4 to 5 cm) and made of steel usually between 3/16" and 1/4" thick (from 4.8 to 6.4 millimeters). The back of the blade often had a strip of soft metal (normally brass or copper) inlaid intended to catch an opponent's blade, a concept borrowed from the medieval Scottish dirk, and also often had an upper guard that bent forward at an angle, also intended to catch an opponent's blade. The back edge of the curved clip point, also called the "false edge," was often sharpened in order to allow someone trained in European techniques of saber fencing to execute the maneuver called the "back cut" or "back slash." A brass quillon was attached to protect the hand, usually cast in a mold. It is likely that the blade shape was derived from the Spanish Navajo clasp knives carried in Spain and the Spanish colonies in the Americas.

### **Butterfly Knife / Balisong**

The Balisong, called a Butterfly knife in the West, and sometimes known as a Batangas knife, is a form of folding pocket knife with two handles that counter-rotate around the tang such that, when closed, the blade is concealed within grooves in the handles. In the hands of a trained user, the knife blade can be brought forth quickly using one hand. Manipulations (flipping) are performed for art or amusement and require great skill. Translated from Tagalog, the word "Balisong" means "Broken Horn" (literally, "baling sungay") as the original Balisongs were made from carved animal horns and recycled knife blades. The name butterfly knife is a term coined in the United States much like "drumbox" for the kahon.

### **Claspknife**

A claspknife is a folding knife, strictly speaking one equipped with some means of holding the blade in the open position when in use, so that it cannot close accidentally on the user's fingers. The term tends to refer to a medium-sized to large knife, and implies a locking mechanism such as a twisting ring or catch that must be released in a distinct action before the knife can be folded, as opposed to the more usual sliding spring which requires only that a sufficient force be applied to the back of the knife in order for it to fold into the handle, and for which the term penknife is normally used. The term lock-knife or lockback knife also exists to make this distinction.

### **Dirk**

Dirk is a Scots word for a long dagger; sometimes a cut-down sword blade mounted on a dagger hilt, rather than a knife blade. Dirks were made with either double-edged or single-edged blades, and there was no standard blade configuration. Reference books covering naval dirks invariably show the popularity of both blade types.

### **Gravity Knife**

A gravity knife is a knife which can be opened solely by the forces of gravity or centripetal force. One method of opening is where the blade exits out the front of the handle point-first and locks into place. Another form is like a switchblade, but instead of a button or spring, the knife is "flipped" out of the handle, and locked into place. To retract the blade back into the handle, a release lever, or linerlock is pressed. Should the knife be equipped with a spring to open the blade, it is then referred to as an Out-The-Front Automatic knife or OTF for short, or a switchblade if it exits out of the side. Knives commonly mistaken for gravity knives include OTF automatic knives, the switchblade and the butterfly knife (or balisong), and occasionally common folding knives (see penny knife).

### **Gimlet Knife**

**A gimlet is a weapon that looks like an ice pick and opens like a switchblade knife.**

### **Penknife**

**A penknife or pen knife is a small folding pocket knife, originally used for cutting a quill to make a pen nib. It may have single or multiple blades and additional tools incorporated into the design. Over the last hundred years there has been a proliferation of multi-function knives with multifarious and often ingenious gadgets including awls, reamers, scissors, nail files, corkscrews, tweezers, toothpicks and so on, and the tradition continues with the incorporation of modern devices such as ballpoint pens, LED torches and USB flash drives. The most famous example of a multi-function knife is the Swiss Army knife, some versions of which number dozens of functions and are really more of a folding multi-tool, incorporating a blade or two, than a penknife with extras.**

### **Jackknife**

**A large clasp knife. To fold or double. A large knife with one or more folding blades.**

### **Stiletto**

- a. A small dagger with a slender, tapering blade.**
- b. Something shaped like such a dagger.**

### **Switchblade**

**There are two basic types of switchblade, side-opening and out-the-front (OTF). A side-opening knife's blade pivots out of the side of the handle (in the same manner as an ordinary folding knife). An out-the-front knife's blade slides directly forward, out of the tip of the handle. There are two types of OTF (out the front) knives: double action and single action.**

**Double action OTFs allow the user to extend or retract the blade with the press of a sliding button. Spring tension in these knives is actually provided by the movement of the button, which makes them much safer to carry since they will not open accidentally. However, the extra force the spring requires can also make intentional opening more difficult.**

**Single action OTFs require the user to retract the blade manually and compress the spring. Because they often use a lever to compress the spring, stronger springs can be used. This makes them open more vigorously than the double-action type, and allows them to achieve tighter lock-up.**

**Updates to this Page**    [Archive of Past Updates to This Page.](#)

6/1/20 - West Virginia Entry Updated. West Virginia now has State Preemption Statute that covers Knives.

9/1/20 - All Links Checked.

5/7/2021 - All Links Checked.

8/1/2021 - LA Entry Updated. All Links Checked.

1/1/2022 - All Links Checked.

3/10/2022 - All Links Checked.

4/13/2022 - Georgia Entry Updated.

11/21/2023 - All Links Checked.

7/1/2024 - Idaho Now Has Knife Preemption.

11/8/2024 - All Links Checked.

3/15/2025 - All Links Checked.