

Statuses and Liability of Armed Security Personnel**

Bismarck Diocese

Levels/Classes of Licenses or Permits	Who	Legally Allowed Armed in Church/ School	Insurance Liability Coverage (Tort Claims)	Notes/Comments
Potentially Allowable Security Personnel*				
Uniformed Law Enforcement Officer (LEO)	On-Duty LEOs	Yes, per State & Local Statutes	Yes, pending written agreement, with depts of assign.	1. Uniformed LEOs are assigned by their department to serve as on-site security with overtime paid by the parish/school to the law enforcement department. 2. CMG policy provides civil protection for the parish or school.
Unassigned (plain clothed) Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs)	Off-Duty LEOs (and/or 1099 LEOs)	Yes, when contracted by parish/school	CMG coverage determined on a case-by-case basis.	1. LEOs providing security are not uniformed and must be contracted by the parish/school to serve as security. 2. Liability for actions taken when attending as a normal parishioner/participant, coverage through CMG is not certain and dependent on the fact pattern.
Contracted Private Security	Private Contracted Security Personnel	Yes, when contracted by parish/school	Yes, through Security Company Policy	1. Dependent on the written contract, CMG provides civil protection for the parish/school in addition to the Security Company's insurance. 2. Training standards differ significantly from those of LEOs and therefore may be better suited for unarmed security roles.
Non-Recommended Church Security Personnel*				
Federal Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA)	Qualified Retired LEOs	Yes, per Federal Law, but only with written approval of Bishop	No	The Act applies to both current active law enforcement personnel as well as qualified retired law enforcement personnel. This chart focuses on retired officers when used for church security purposes.
Certified North Dakota Armed First Responder (AFR)	Armed Citizen Successfully Obtains/Retains AFR Cert.	Yes, but only with written approval of Bishop	No	1. Armed Citizens includes members of the parish/school Clergy and Staff. 2. AFRs are allowed by ND state law to carry firearms in the parish/school and act as security only with proper approval by the parish/school and the bishop.
ND Class I Concealed Weapons Permit	Armed Citizen	Yes, but only with written approval of Bishop	No	1. Armed Citizens includes members of the parish Clergy and Staff. 2. Good Samaritan Laws may provide some liability protection, but gun possession charges may still apply if carrying without proper permissions.
ND Class II Concealed Weapon Permit	Armed Citizen	Yes, but only with written approval of Bishop	No	1. Armed Citizens includes members of the parish Clergy and Staff. 2. Good Sam. Laws may provide some liability protection for non-contracted personnel, but gun charges may still apply if carrying w/out needed permissions.
ND Constitutional Carry	Armed Citizen	Yes, but only with written approval of Bishop	No	1. Armed Citizens includes members of the parish Clergy and Staff. 2. Good Sam. Laws may provide some liability protection for non-contracted personnel, but gun charges may still apply if carrying w/out needed permissions
ND Open Carry	Armed Citizen	No, unless approved by Bishop	No	1. ND Open Carry Laws prohibit open carry at religious events without authorization by relevant authorities (i.e., the Bishop). 2. Bishop will not approve.
Out-of-State Concealed Weapon Permit with ND Reciprocity	Armed U.S. Citizen	Yes, but only with written approval of Bishop	No	1. These citizens fall under the same guidelines as ND Class I and ND Class II Concealed Weapons Permit holders 2. This group of citizens must be licensed permit carriers in their home state and ND must recognize that state's permit under a reciprocity status.

* All parish and school security plans using security armed with dangerous weapons must be approved by the Bishop. This approval is contingent upon review of the security plan by the diocesan attorney and Catholic Mutual Group. The one exception being the use of licensed School Resource Officers assigned to the school/parish by the local police department.

** Non-Lethal and Less-than-Lethal weapons are defined as "dangerous weapons" under NDCC. Permission to carry these weapons in the church require the same permissions from the Bishop as that of other firearms use. Personnel possessing these types of weapons may be subject to criminal and civil charges and liabilities such as those with other weapons.