Seward House Museum Weapons Policy 2019

This Weapons Policy draws from the most current New York State and New York State Agency laws and regulations available. However, this policy can be updated and revised according to Seward House Museum practices, so long as it adheres to current New York State Law.

Patrons who refuse to comply with Seward House Museum policies will not be guaranteed services, and may be removed from the property. Local Law Enforcement will be utilized should patrons not comply with Seward House Museum safety procedures, as outlined in the Museum’s Emergency Response Plan.

Firearms

1. No person, other than a member of a Federal, State or municipal law enforcement agency, shall introduce or possess on the property of the Seward House Museum, either upon the person or within a vehicle, or use any firearm or any instrument or weapon the propelling force of which is a spring, rubber or air or any ammunition or propellant therefor, or a bow and arrow.
   a. Should a patron have a concealed weapon, a staff member of the Seward House Museum can ask for a permit that allows the patron to conceal/carry the firearm
      i. If the armed patron refuses to reveal a permit, the Seward House Museum retains the right to have that patron leave the property

2. The use of muzzle-loading weapons shall be limited to demonstrations, interpretive programming, and special events, such as reenacting of Civil War-era traditions or ceremonies. The weapons shall be loaded with blanks only.
   a. Demonstration weapons will need to be examined and approved by the Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Executive Director, and the Facilities Manager of the Seward House Museum. A record of purchase may also be required for use.

3. Any person employed by a private security firm contracted by the Seward House Museum shall be permitted, with the approval of the Executive Director of the Seward House Museum, to carry a firearm supplied by his or her employer in the course of his or her employment on the property of the Seward House Museum.
Edged Weapons

1. A person may only carry a knife with a blade under four inches in length
   a. The knife must be concealed with only the clip showing, or sheathed within a holster
2. According to N.Y. Penal Law § 265.00, it is illegal for persons to equip themselves with the following edged weapons in New York State:
   a. Pilum Ballistic Knife: Any knife which has a blade which can be projected from the handle by hand pressure applied to button, lever, spring or other device in the handle of the knife.
   b. Metal Knuckle Knife: A knife that, when closed, cannot function as a set of metal knuckles, nor as a knife and when open, can function as both a set of metal knuckles as well as a knife.
   c. Cane Sword: An item such as a cane or swagger stick having concealed within it a blade that may be used as a sword or stiletto.
3. Any person with one of these edged weapons will be asked to leave the property of the Seward House Museum. Refusal to do so will result in Local Law Enforcement being contacted.

Miscellaneous Weapons NOT allowed on Seward House Museum Property:

a) Billy or Whips
b) Blackjack, Bludgeon, or Nightsticks
c) Plastic Knuckles
d) Metal Knuckles
e) Sandclub or Baseball Bats
f) Wrist-brace type Slingshot or Slungshot
g) Shirkens or Kung Fu stars