

Retailer frequently asked questions.

NEW WA
LAWS

Effective 20 December 2024, the Western Australian Government have enacted legislative amendments to the *Criminal Investigation Act 2006*, *Weapons Act 1999*, and *Young Offenders Act 1994* via the *Police Legislation Amendment Act 2024* in an effort to reduce knife crime. These changes reflect a tougher stance against knives and other concealed edged weapons, and penalties for their possession have increased.

Retailers who sell or supply knives and any items under the category edged weapons should be aware of the changes.

What's changing?

- It is illegal to carry or have an edged weapon without a lawful excuse.
- It is illegal to sell or supply an edged weapon to anyone under the age of 18.
- When in a designated area police officers will be able to scan anyone, any age, with a hand-held metal detector to find concealed knives and edged weapons.
- When in a designated area it is illegal to refuse to being scanned with a metal detector or to refuse to show an object detected by the metal detector when asked.

Is it illegal to sell a knife to a child?

Yes. Under Section 6B of the *Weapons Act 1999* it is illegal to sell or supply a knife or edged weapon to anyone under 18 years of age. The penalty for this offence is a maximum of 3 years imprisonment and a fine of \$36,000.

What is an edged weapon?

An edged weapon means the following:

- a knife
- a machete
- a sickle
- a scythe
- a blade from any of the above
- an axe or axe head
- any item with a sharpened edged or blade that could be used to wound or threaten someone

An edged weapon does not include:

- a plastic or wooden knife designed to be used for eating
- a knife with a rounded tip and dull edge

For the full definition of edged weapon please visit the *Weapons Act 1999* at legislation.wa.gov.au

What is a lawful excuse?

There are certain circumstances where there may be a lawful excuse for carrying or possessing an edged weapon.

These include:

- lawful employment, duty, or activity
- lawful sport, recreation, or entertainment
- lawful collection, display, or exhibition

It does not include carrying or possessing a weapon for defence.

For more information on the general categories of Lawful Excuse in relation to Edged Weapons please visit the *Weapons Act 1999* at legislation.wa.gov.au

Is there signage I can display?

Yes. Signage informing customers that it is illegal to sell an edged weapon to a person under 18 years of age is available for Retailers to download at wa.gov.au/cutknifecrime

