

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Do Not Discharge Celebratory Gunshots On New Year's Eve, V.I.P.D. Warns Lawful And Unlawful Gun Owners

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The Virgin Islands Police Department is warning legal and illegal gun holders in the territory not to discharge their weapons on New Year's Eve, stating that the bullets have caused harm in the past, and that such activity is against the law.

According to a press release the force's public information officer, Glen Dratte issued Tuesday, legal gun owners who break the law and are caught, could see their firearm license being revoked and perpetrator arrested.

The force cited multiple sections of Virgin Islands Code that speaks against the activity. They include the following:

V.I. Code Title 23 § 479. Discharging or aiming firearms

Any person who, otherwise than in self-defense or in the discharge of official duty:

(a) willfully discharges any pistol, revolver, or other firearm, or who throws any deadly missile in a public place or any other place where there is any person who may be injured, hereby, although no injury to any person ensues; or

(b) intentionally although without malice aims a revolver, pistol or other firearm toward any person; or

(c) discharges, without injury to any person, firearms while intentionally although without malice aiming toward any person; or

(d) causes physical injury to any person by the discharge of a firearm while aiming intentionally, although without malice, at any person, shall be guilty of a felony.

V.I. Code Title 14 § 625. Reckless endangerment

*(a) a person is guilty of **reckless endangerment** in the first degree when, under the circumstances evidencing a depraved indifference to human life, he recklessly engages in conduct in a public place which creates a grave risk of death to another person. **Reckless endangerment** in the first degree shall be considered as a felony.*

*(b) A person is guilty of **reckless endangerment** in the second degree when he recklessly engages in conduct in a public place which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury to another person. **Reckless endangerment** in the second degree shall be considered as a misdemeanor.*

(c) The terms as used in this section shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*(1) "**reckless endangerment**" means when a person consciously and knowingly engages in conduct or behavior that may pose intentional harm or physical injuries to another human being or property.*

(2) "public place" means a place to which the general public has a right to resort; but a place which is in point of fact public rather than private, and visited by many persons and usually accessible to the public.

V.I. Code Title 14 § 621. Brandishing, exhibiting, or using deadly weapons

Whoever

(1) not in necessary self-defense, and in the presence of two or more persons, draws or exhibits any deadly weapon in a rude, angry, and threatening manner; or

*(2) in any manner unlawfully uses the same in any fight or quarrel--
shall be fined not more than \$ 200 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.*

V.I. Code Title 14 § 2252. Confiscation of illegally held weapons

Whoever violates the provisions of sections 298, 2251 or 2253 of this title, or any other provision of law prohibiting the possession, bearing, transporting, carrying or effective control of a firearm, ammunition or other weapon shall, in addition to the punishment therein prescribed, also have said firearm, ammunition or other weapon confiscated to the Government of the Virgin Islands.

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