

KNIFE CRIME

In England and Wales under Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 it may be an offence to have any sharply pointed or bladed instrument in your possession, in a public place.

Knife Crime - The facts

▶ Young men aged 18 to 30 are at highest risk of being involved in knife crime

▶ It is a criminal offence to have in a public place any item that has a blade including scissors and craft knives

▶ It is illegal for anyone under 18 to buy a knife of any sort

▶ It is not legal to carry a knife for self-defence

▶ If you are caught by police carrying a knife, even if it was for your protection or you were carrying it for someone else, you will be arrested and prosecuted

▶ There is no 'safe place' to stab someone. A wound in the arm or leg can still kill someone, and if a knife punctures an artery you can bleed to death in five minutes

▶ If you use a knife, even in self-defence, you could be charged with assault with intent, or even worse

▶ You can go to prison even if you didn't use the knife

▶ Police can stop and search anyone they believe is carrying a knife

▶ If you carry a knife there is a much higher chance that you will get stabbed yourself, that if you don't carry one

▶ If someone is injured or killed by a knife in your presence, you could be prosecuted even if you didn't touch the knife. You could even go to prison in what is called 'joint enterprise'

▶ A criminal record for knife use or possession can stop you from being accepted into college or university, and make it harder to get a job. Many countries won't let you in, such as the USA and Australia

▶ Possession of a knife carries a prison sentence of up to 4 years, even if it is used

▶ It is not just a knife, any kind of offensive weapon can get you time in prison. This can include things like a sharpened comb, or something with a blade that's disguised as something else like a lighter or a pen. It is also illegal to carry any kind of imitation weapon e.g. imitation firearm

Ambition Aspire Achieve

Charity Registration Number: 1167816

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Help And Advice

www.fearless.org - A site where you can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. What makes this site different is they also provide you with a safe place to give information to us about crime – 100% anonymously.

ChildLine - Contact anytime – calls are free and confidential:
0800 1111

Talk To Frank - Friendly, confidential drugs advice LIVE CHAT
(2PM – 6PM) SMS 82111 or Call 0300 123 6600

Call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Crimestoppers – a free, confidential service where you can report information about a crime anonymously. Freephone: **0800 555 111**

Web: www.crimestoppers-uk.org