

**Case Service Memo:** 2006-2  
**Subject:** Purchase of Firearms for VR Clients  
**To:** All Staff  
**From:** Richard Nisogi  
**Preparation Date:** January 30, 2006  
**Issue Date:** February 1, 2006  
**Effective Date:** Immediately

**1. Purpose:** The purpose of this Case Service Memo is to clarify the Division of Rehabilitation Services' policy and practice relating to requests for the agency to purchase firearms for clients as part of an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

**2. Clarification/Policy Statement:** USOR VR case service policy prohibits the purchase of firearms. Counselors may not purchase a firearm for any individual as part of an IPE, even if the vocational goal is one that would require a firearm to perform training and/or duties of the job.

The Utah State Division of Rehabilitation Services does buy tools and equipment to help clients participate in, complete training for, and engage in employment. Some clients may see firearms as being a necessary tool to complete training or be able to complete a job task, e.g., police officer, security guard, etc. However, the unique nature and potential misuse of firearms requires that they be treated differently. Firearms, even when used as a work tool, are exclusively intended to be used for intimidation and/or possible physical injury or death of an individual. This unique circumstance, together with the liability issue of a state agency purchasing a weapon and the inability of the State to track that weapon during or after case closure to ensure the proper use of the firearm, is problematic. Once we buy a firearm for a client, there is no long-term assurance that it would not be used in an inappropriate manner, which could result in injury or death of an individual. If, for unforeseen reasons, the client or former client did use that weapon for illegal, improper, or potential misuse causing injury, death, or other harm, the State and agency could be held liable.

In those cases where a firearm may be required for training and/or employment, the client should promptly be advised of this policy so that he/she, with the assistance of the counselor, can identify alternative resources to purchase the required firearm.

Should specific, individual, exceptional circumstances arise in which the counselor feels that advocacy for an exception to this policy may be warranted, consultation with the Case Service Program Director must occur through channels.

Any request for an exception to this policy must be approved by the Program Director of Case Services.