

## *Play by the Rules*

### Worksheet 4-1: Is it a Weapon?

The local city council met to discuss the increase of the city's crime. Last year, several cases were weapon-related incidents in local schools. The meeting focused on how to decrease school violence. The council decided to pass a law that makes it illegal to carry a weapon on school property. Also, the schools and other school facilities must post the following sign at their entrances:

**NO WEAPONS ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

#### **Directions:**

1. The law seems clear, but a few situations have arisen that question the interpretation of the law.
2. You are members of the city council and today you will be hearing from six citizens who have concerns about the law.
3. Use the following questions as a guideline to determine if the situation should be allowed or not: (a) Was a weapon involved? (b) Does this act violate the law? (c) What should be done? Be prepared to defend your answers. Keep in mind what the law says as well as its intent.
4. As members of the city council, you will decide whether to allow the conduct in each of the scenarios. Be prepared to offer your reasons and possible solutions.



#### **Scenarios:**

1. Josh has baseball practice after school. He brings his bat to school so he will not have to go home before practice.
2. Mrs. Richards, the home economics teacher, passes out 15 knives for her students to use to create decorative vegetables for a dinner party.
3. Tricia, an honor student, brings her dad's new pistol to school to show her friends. She keeps the safety on and puts it away in her locker.
4. Mr. Stewart is a teacher and he lives a long way from school. He is leaving for a hunting trip right after school and brings his hunting bow and arrows to school with him.
5. Natalie likes to carve wood as a hobby. She brings her pocketknife and wood carving to school. She always has spare time in study hall and wants to work on her project.
6. Jonathan is a diabetic. He brings his insulin and syringes to school just in case he needs them.