



What do you know about carrying a knife?

By Police Constable Ian Willetts - Howick Police Station

We have recently attended several offences involving the use and carriage of knives by youths.

Did you know

Some people think carrying a knife protects you. What they don't realise is...

- It could cost you your life if your knife is used against you.
- If you get caught carrying a knife you could get up to two years in prison.
- A stab wound on any part of the body could be fatal.

Carrying a knife doesn't protect you.

Think about it. If you carry a knife and you get into a fight you might be tempted to use your knife. You may have never intended using it, but before you know it, you've stabbed someone or your knife has been used against you.

Knives and the law

Just by carrying a knife you could end up in court. It is illegal to carry a knife without a lawful excuse, and if you are caught unlawfully carrying a knife, you will be arrested. There is a strong public interest in deterring persons from carrying knives.

The maximum prison sentence for carrying a knife is 2 years, but if you use the knife in a crime or to injure someone, the penalties are a lot more substantial.

Don't be a victim

If you feel you are in immediate danger from knife crime there are a number of steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Try to remove yourself from the dangerous situation towards a place of safety (shop, house, garage, restaurant etc) as quickly as possible.
- Try to avoid any confrontation. Alert others and try to remain calm.

Police response

Police treat any person carrying a knife as an extreme threat to the safety of Police, public and themselves. Tactical options, including the use of a Taser or even a firearm may be used by Police to deal with such threats posed by offenders, depending on the circumstances.

If you know of someone who regularly carries knives, don't keep silent. Report it anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on ph 0800 555 111.