



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 8 - ASSAULTS

N.C.G.S. § 14-34.8.

Criminal use of laser device.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:38 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 92db6e9d460d6a1f5893467b - f9693aceb9681e3c03981dee - 41c21ee5f0e6e0a8
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- § 14-34.8(a)

The following definitions apply in this section:

 - (1) Laser. - Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.
 - (2) Law enforcement agency animal. - As defined in G.S. 14-163.1.
 - (3) Search and rescue animal. - As defined in G.S. 14-163.1.
- § 14-34.8(b)

It is unlawful to intentionally point a laser device while the device is emitting a laser beam at:

 - (1) Any of the following while the person is in the performance of his or her duties:
 - a.A law enforcement officer.
 - b.A probation or parole officer.
 - c.A person whose employment duties include the custody, transportation, or management of persons who are detained or confined to a detention facility, youth development center, or correctional institution operated under the jurisdiction of the State or a local government.
 - d.A firefighter.
 - e.An emergency medical technician or other emergency health care provider.
 - f.A member of the North Carolina National Guard.
 - g.A member of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States.

- h.Court counselors whose employment duties include intake, probation, post-release supervision, and court supervision services of juveniles.
- (2)

The head or face of any person not covered under subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (3)

A law enforcement agency animal or a search and rescue animal while the animal is in the performance of its duty.

§ 14-34.8(c)

INFRACTION

A violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section is a Class I felony. A violation of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section is a Class A1 misdemeanor if the law enforcement agency animal or the search and rescue animal is caused "harm" as that term is defined by G.S. 14-163.1. Any other violation of subsection (b) of this section is an infraction.

§ 14-34.8(d)

This section does not apply to a law enforcement officer who uses a laser device in discharging or attempting to discharge the officer's official duties. This section does not apply to a health care professional who uses a laser device in providing services within the scope of practice of that professional nor to any other person who is licensed or authorized by law to use a laser device or uses it in the performance of the person's official duties.

§ 14-34.8(e)

This section does not apply to laser tag, paintball guns, and other similar games and devices using light emitting diode (LED) technology. (1999-401, s. 1; 2023-76, s. 3.)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II

1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 14-163.1	(a)(2)	"agency animal. - As defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-34.8 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-34.8(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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