USEFUL INFORMATION

Do you know the laws in Queensland in relation to the carrying of Swords in public --- and you thought you could get away with carrying that lovely stage swiord in public!

Swords and the Law what you need to know

As a number of belly dancers in Queensland are carrying swords to classes and performances it is important that you are aware of the provisions of the law - Section 51 of the Weapons Act 1990. Technically speaking our swords are regarded as a "knife" . A "knife" is defined as a thing with a sharpened point or blade that is reasonably capable of (a) being held in 1 or both hands, and (b) being used to wound or threaten to wound anyone when held in 1 or both hands.

Possession of a knife in a public place - 51.(1) A person must not physically possess a knife in a public place, unless the person has reasonable excuse (Maximum penalty: 20 penalty points or 6 months imprisonment)

The part which applies to us in particular in Subsection 2 (which states It is reasonable excuse for subsection (1) to physically possess a knife) is subsection 2(b) to participate in a lawful entertainment, recreation or sport.

Subsection (3) 4 states - In deciding what is a reasonable excuse for subsection (1), regard may be had, among other things, to whether the way the knife is held in possession or when and where it is held in possession, would cause a reasonable person concern that he or she, or someone else in the vicinity may be threatened or harmed

Sergeant Gerry O'Connor of Weapons Licensing Branch, at Police Headquarters Brisbane provided the above information. His suggestion is that we all make decorated pouches in which to carry the swords - in other words so we don't look like we're carrying swords.