

MOTOR VEHICLES:

Person may attach insignia of profession to
license plate.

April 21, 1939

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Honorable Dwight H. Brown
Secretary of State
Jefferson City, Missouri

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of
March 31, 1939, submitting this question for our opinion:

"May the insignia or emblem repre-
senting a person's chosen profession
or avocation, be attached to the motor
vehicle license plate and displayed
with said license plate on that per-
son's automobile?"

Section 7770 (a) Laws 1935, page 297, provides for
the motor vehicle commissioner to furnish number plates to
the owners of automobiles. Subsection (c) of this section
provides:

"(c) Every motor vehicle or trailer
shall at all times have displayed
the registration plates issued by
the commissioner, entirely unobscured,
unobstructed, all parts thereof plain-
ly visible and kept reasonably clean,
and so fastened as not to swing. On
all motor vehicles one plate shall be
displayed on the front and the other
on the rear of such motor vehicle, not
less than eight nor more than forty-
eight inches above the ground, except
that on trailers, motorcycles and motor-
tricycles one plate shall be so dis-
played on the rear thereof."

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Thus, it is plain that nothing may be attached to the license plate or automobile which will prevent in any manner said plate from being seen.

Subsection (c) of this section prohibits the display of plates, other than the official number plate, which bear any numbers. These sections are the only ones applicable which can be found which in any way attempt to prescribe what shall not be done with respect to the state license plates. They do not, as can be seen, prohibit such an emblem as is concerned here.

On the contrary, it seems that Section 7783 (1) expressly contemplates the use of emblems. This section provides:

"(1) Improper use of emblem: No person shall display on a motor vehicle the emblem or insignia of any automobile or motor vehicle club, association or other organization unless he is a member thereof."

CONCLUSION.

Therefore, it is our opinion that persons may attach to their automobile number plates an emblem or insignia representing his profession or avocation, if he does not, in doing so, obscure the number plate.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPROVED:

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LLB:VAC