

CRIMINAL LAW:
POOL HALLS - TABLES:

Participants in a "Jamboree," a 20 game pool or billiard contest wherein participants receive prize money obtained from a \$10.00 entry fee which is distributed in proportion to the number of games won, are in violation of Section 563.390, RSMo 1959, which forbids playing pool for money.

OPINION NO. 68

April 6, 1965

Honorable William D. Kimme
Prosecuting Attorney
Franklin County
Union, Missouri



Dear Mr. Kimme:

This is in answer to your inquiry as to whether it is a violation of Section 563.390, RSMo 1959, when there is a "Jamboree" or billiard game contest conducted under the factual situation described in your letter.

In your letter you state that a "Jamboree" is a contest conducted by proprietors of pool halls wherein individuals pay an entry fee of \$10.00. These fees are held by the proprietor until 20 games of pool are played. When the 20 games are completed, each player is entitled to receive as prize money a share of the entry fees to be determined by the total amount of money paid in and the number of games that an individual might win. All money paid in as entry fees is returned to the players. No money is held by the proprietor. You do not state who pays the proprietor for the cost of the games.

Section 563.390, RSMo 1959, provides as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to play for money or purses of money at any billiard game, pool game or any other game played upon a table and upon which balls and cues are used, or to bet any money on any game named herein which others may be playing. Every person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by a fine or not less than ten dollars nor more than two hundred dollars."

Honorable William D. Kimme

Each entrant in a "Jamboree" must pay a fee to enter the contest. The sum of these fees constitute a money-prize of which each individual strives to win as large a share as possible by his skill at playing pool. By his participation, each contestant is unquestionably playing pool or billiards for money within the meaning of Section 563.390, RSMo 1959. It is our opinion the contestants therein are in violation of Section 563.390, RSMo, by playing pool for money.

CONCLUSION

It is the opinion of this office that participants in a "Jamboree," a 20 game pool or billiard contest wherein participants receive prize money obtained from a \$10.00 entry fee which is distributed in proportion to the number of games won, are in violation of Section 563.390, RSMo 1959, which forbids playing pool for money.

This opinion, which I hereby approve, was prepared by my Assistant, John H. Denman.

Very truly yours,


NORMAN H. ANDERSON
Attorney General

JHD:bf