

February 16, 1966



Honorable Don E. Burrell
Prosecuting Attorney
Greene County
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Dear Mr. Burrell:

This office is in receipt of your request for an opinion which request states in part:

"For a considerable time I have been looking for a section of the law which requires hotel and motel operators to keep registration cards or a list of registration of their guests, and which will allow the police and sheriff's office to make an inspection of these lists under the public records section or on some legal ground, but I have been unable to find any section of the statutes which covers this.

"We have several motel and hotel operators in this county who have refused to allow this inspection of their records."

We are also unable to find any statute in this state that requires a hotel or motel operator to keep registration cards or lists or any law that requires guests to register.

It is a well known fact that many establishments do require guests to register. This, perhaps, could be pursuant to a city ordinance.

In the absence of a law, we are not aware of any authority which would authorize officers to inspect records which

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are voluntarily kept by the operator.

Very truly yours,

NORMAN H. ANDERSON
Attorney General