

CHAUFFEURS LICENSE:
MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS
LICENSE:
DECAL:

It is unlawful for any person to display or permit to be displayed, or to have in his possession any chauffeur's license or motor vehicle operator's license knowing the same to have been altered by the affixing thereto of a decal.

November 22, 1966

OPINION NO. 252

Mr. Paul M. Peterson, General Counsel
University of Missouri
1 Tate Hall
Columbia, Missouri



Dear Mr. Peterson:

This is in response to your letter of March 28, 1966, requesting an official opinion of this office.

Essentially the question raised by your letter concerns the legality of attaching a small decal to a motor vehicle operator's license by an individual who wishes to make a gift of his eyes to the Lion's Eye Tissue Bank.

Section 302.220, RSMo 1959, reads in part as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to display or permit to be displayed, or to have in his possession, any chauffeur's license or motor vehicle operator's license knowing the same to be fictitious or to have been cancelled, suspended, revoked or altered; * * *" (Emphasis ours)

The verb "alter" is defined at C.J.S., 898, as follows:

"To add or diminish to cause to be different in some respect to change; to change in some respect either partially or wholly; to change or modify the form or character of a thing, without changing its identity; * * *" (Emphasis ours)

It is apparent that placing the proposed decal on the license would constitute an addition within the meaning of the foregoing definition.

Mr. Paul M. Peterson

The addition of the decal to the license would not constitute a material change, however it would vary and add to the appearance of the license to a marked degree. Likewise it would add information to the drivers license not expressly provided for or authorized by statute. (Section 302.171 and 302.181, RSMo 1959) We believe that this change in appearance would constitute an alteration of the operator's license.

We note that Section 302.220 does not prohibit the alteration of motor vehicle operators licenses, but said Section does declare the possession, display or permission to display a license that has been altered to be unlawful.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that it is unlawful for any person to display or permit to be displayed, or to have in his possession any chauffeur's license or motor vehicle operator's license knowing the same to have been altered by the affixing thereto of a decal.

The foregoing opinion which I hereby approve was prepared by my Assistant, Mr. Jerome Wallach.

Very truly yours,


NORMAN H. ANDERSON
Attorney General