



OFFICES OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

JOHN C. DANFORTH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 7, 1973

OPINION LETTER NO. 15

Honorable Charles M. LeCompt
Prosecuting Attorney
Greene County, Courthouse
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Dear Mr. LeCompt:

This letter is in response to a request by Mr. Dee Wampler, your predecessor, asking:

"For what length of time must an official court reporter preserve official notes taken in past court proceedings?"

Section 485.050, RSMo 1969, provides:

"It shall be the duty of the official court reporter so appointed . . . to preserve all official notes taken in said court for future use or reference, and to furnish to any person or persons a transcript of all or any part of said evidence or oral proceedings upon the payment to him of the fee herein provided." (Emphasis supplied)

We find no reported cases in Missouri respecting the duration of the preservation of official court notes. We find no authority for the destruction of such notes and therefore we are of the opinion that such notes must be preserved indefinitely.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Danforth".

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General