



OFFICES OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

June 25, 1975

JOHN C. DANFORTH  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OPINION LETTER NO. 146

Honorable Frank Bild  
Missouri Senate, District 15  
7 Meppen Court  
St. Louis, Missouri 63128

Dear Senator Bild:

This letter is in response to your question asking whether it is "legal for an employee of an armored car company to carry a firearm while transporting money and valuables in an area of St. Louis City, St. Louis County and St. Charles County without a watchman's license?"

For the purposes of this opinion we will assume that the employee in question is a uniformed security guard carrying a holstered handgun.

Under Missouri law the statutory control of handguns is confined to Sections 564.610 through 564.660, RSMo; Section 564.610 prohibits a person from carrying a firearm concealed on or about his person and prohibits carrying exposed weapons in certain areas; Section 564.630 sets forth certain permit requirements for the acquisition or transfer of concealable weapons; and, finally, the remaining sections establish firearm identification and bookkeeping requirements and create penalty provisions for enforcement purposes.

It is to be noted that none of the above-cited statutes purport to control the proper carrying of unconcealed firearms except in certain places of assembly and the like.

It is our understanding that certain cities and counties may have enacted ordinances regulating the carrying of exposed firearms. It follows therefore that the carrying of a firearm within the territorial limits of a local jurisdiction would necessarily be subject to the control of the firearm ordinances, if any, enacted within such jurisdiction.

Honorable Frank Bild

For the above reason, it is apparent that to answer the question posed in your opinion request this office would be required to pass solely on the effect of local law. This we decline to do. Instead, it is suggested that you contact the legal officers of the political subdivisions involved.

You should note that in reaching this result, we do not purport to pass on the collateral question of whether an armored car security guard is a "watchman" for local licensing purposes.

Very truly yours,

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

JOHN C. DANFORTH  
Attorney General