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June 25, 2008

The Hon. Debbie Brown
Judge of the Probate Court of Screven County
216 Mims Road, Suite 107
Sylvania, GA 30467

RE: Laws Concerning Carrying Firearms with a License

Dear Judge Brown:

I am writing on behalf of my client, GeorgiaCarry.Org, Inc., which has over 1,600 members interested in the right to keep and bear arms in Georgia. GCO has been contacted with reports that your office routinely tells applicants and recipients of Georgia firearms licenses ("GFLs") that such licenses only allow the holder of the GFL to carry a firearm in a motor vehicle. I am writing to clear up any misunderstanding there may be on this topic.

A person without a GFL is subject to arrest and prosecution for carrying a concealed firearm, in violation of O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126, or carrying a pistol without a license, in violation of O.C.G.A. § 16-11-128. A person with a GFL is exempt from both these code sections. After July 1, a person with a GFL will also be exempt from certain other prohibitions on carrying firearms (e.g., carrying in restaurants that serve alcohol, public transportation, and state parks). For more information on this, please see the revisions made to several code sections by HB 89.

In short, a person with a GFL is authorized to carry a handgun anywhere in the state where it is not specifically prohibited by law. After July 1, even people without a GFL (but who are eligible to get one) will be able to carry a firearm anywhere in a motor vehicle. There is a very good and thorough site on the internet maintained by a separate organization, Georgiapacking.org, which you may find interesting or to which you may wish to refer your GFL applicants and licensees. The URL for the site with information on GA law is <http://www.georgiapacking.org/law.php>.

I trust this information is helpful. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John R. Monroe