

**JOHN R. MONROE  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

June 26, 2007

Sheriff Joe Peebles  
Warren County Sheriff's Department  
169 Highway 80 N  
Warrenton, GA 30828

The Hon. Janice Thigpen  
Probate Judge of Warren County  
521 Main Street  
Warrenton, GA 30828

**RE: Policies on Carrying Firearms**

Dear Sheriff Peebles and Judge Thigpen:

I am writing you on behalf of GeorgiaCarry.Org, Inc., and its members, regarding your policies on the carrying of firearms with a Georgia firearms license. I understand that the enclosed document is (or at one time was) distributed by the Sheriff's Department to people applying for a firearms license. I further understand that the Sheriff's Department may have a policy of indicating orally to people that failure to abide by the "rules" in the enclosed document will subject violators to arrest. Finally, I understand that the policy behind the document may have come from the probate court. I write you both, therefore, to inquire about the document and its origins.

GeorgiaCarry.Org is a non-profit corporation whose primary aim is to foster the rights of its members to keep and bear arms. Members who live in or travel through Warren County understandably are concerned about any policies of the county or county officials that affect their carrying of firearms in the county.

While several statements in the enclosed document are erroneous, the one of greatest concern is that a firearm must be carried openly in a holster. There is no basis in statutory or case law for requiring a firearms license holder to wear a pistol openly (i.e., not concealed). To the contrary, it is clear that a licensee is exempt from the crime of carrying a concealed weapon. O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126(c).

Please reply at your earliest convenience with a statement of your policy(ies) concerning the carrying of concealed weapons by Georgia firearms license holders. I would be pleased to inform my clients that there is some sort of misunderstanding and that you have no policies other than those prescribed by the General Assembly.

Sincerely,

John R. Monroe

## **WITHOUT A PISTOL LICENSE YOU MAY:**

- **PURCHASE A PISTOL**
- **STORE A PISTOL IN YOUR HOME OR PLACE OF BUSINESS (INCLUDING FARM OWNERS), i.e. for protection**
- **STORE A PISTOL IN YOUR CAR'S GLOVE COMPARTMENT, DRIVER CONSOLE OR ON THE CAR SEAT IN PLAIN VIEW**
- **CARRY A PISTOL HOME FROM PLACE OF PURCHASE**
- **USE FOR LEGAL HUNTING, FISHING OR SPORT SHOOTING, PROVIDED THE APPROVAL OF SAID LAND OWNER AND A VALID HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE ON PERSON**
- **ACQUIRE A PISTOL IN AN EMERGENCY FOR SELF-DEFENSE**

## **YOU MUST HAVE A PISTOL LICENSE TO:**

- **CARRY A LOADED PISTOL OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME, CAR OR PLACE OF BUSINESS. ON YOUR PERSON, THE PISTOL MUST BE HOLSTERED AT ALL TIMES AND MAY ONLY BE PARTIALLY CONCEALED BY CLOTHING/HANDBAG**
- **CARRY A PISTOL IN THE VEHICLE OF ANOTHER**

**A PISTOL LICENSE DOES NOT ALLOW YOU TO CARRY A PISTOL TO A PUBLIC GATHERING OR WITHIN 1000 FEET OF ANY SCHOOL PROPERTY. ONLY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ARE ALLOWED TO CARRY A PISTOL AT SUCH EVENTS.**

**A PISTOL LICENSE DOES NOT EXEMPT YOU FROM A BACKGROUND CHECK WHEN PURCHASING A PISTOL.**