

1973 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 272 (S.C.A.G.), 1973 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3602, 1973 WL 21057

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3602

August 20, 1973

***1 In Re: Private Security Guards, Pistols, Carrying by**

Honorable Frank Powell
Sheriff
Richland County
1400 Huger Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Sheriff Powell:

You have inquired whether or not it is lawful for private security guards who are not commissioned as Governor's constables without pay to carry pistols on or about their persons while on duty at shopping centers, night clubs, and other places of business of like nature. Your inquiry does not contemplate persons who might qualify as 'night-watchmen' on duty to guard places of business during hours they are closed.

The right of an 'owner' and, possibly, a renter or lessee, of a home, real property or fixed place of business, to carry a pistol upon such premises, notwithstanding the other provisions of the State's pistol law (Section 16-129, et. seq., 1962 Code, S.C.) is a personal exemption, and auch 'owner' is not empowered to bestow the right upon anyone else.

It is the opinion of this Office that the guards about whom you inquire may not lawfully carry pistols on or about their persons, even though they are on the premises of their employers.

Yours very truly,

Joseph C. Coleman
Deputy Attorney General

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