



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

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W. CURTIS COLEBURN, III

2901 HERMITAGE ROAD
P.O. BOX 27491
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 232
(804) 213-4400
FAX (804) 213-4411
TDD LOCAL (804) 213-4687

August 4, 2003

**Mr. Phillip VanCleave
President
Virginia Citizens Defense League, Inc.
Post Office Box 513
Newington, Virginia 22122**

Dear Mr. VanCleave:

This is in response to your inquiry concerning the propriety of carrying weapons into an establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.

Generally speaking, it is unlawful to carry a concealed handgun onto the premises of any establishment licensed to sell or serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, even if the person has a valid concealed weapons permit.

However, unless prohibited by the owner of the establishment, there is no prohibition to the open carrying of a handgun onto the premises of a licensed establishment.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Christopher Curtis".

**S. Christopher Curtis
Director
Law Enforcement Bureau**

SCC:feh

C: W. Curtis Coleburn, III