

**BILL LOCKYER**  
*Attorney General*

*State of California*  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**



FIREARMS DIVISION  
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January 20, 2006

Chief Frank Wills  
West Covina Police Department  
1444 West Covina, CA 91790-2716

Re: Assault Weapons to be Retained by Officers

Dear Chief Wills:

I am writing in response to an inquiry from your office about whether officers who separate from your department may legally retain assault weapons that are registered in their names. Under the provisions of Penal Code section 12280(e) and (f), officers who separate from employment by a law enforcement agency may retain assault weapons that are legally registered pursuant to Penal Code 12285, as long as they are not prohibited by law from possessing firearms.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alison Merrilees".

ALISON MERRILEES  
Deputy Attorney General

For **BILL LOCKYER**  
Attorney General

cc: Lt. David Barras