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STATE OF ILLINOIS
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S-758

MOTOR VEHICLES:

**Blue Oscillating, Rotating or
Flashing Lights on Vehicles
Owned or Fully Operated by
Firemen**

Honorable Jack Hoogasian
State's Attorney, Lake County
County Building
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Dear Mr. Hoogasian:

I have your letter wherein you state in part:

"Chapter 95 1/2, section 12-215, sub-paragraph (c) states that blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, are prohibited except on the front of any motor vehicle owned or fully operated by a volunteer fireman, paid fireman, part-paid fireman, or call fireman while responding to a fire call.

Does this mean that a fireman as described under this section is in violation of the law for not removing or not covering such light or does this mean that he can have a light attached stationary to the vehicle."

Honorable Jack Hoogasian - 2.

Section 12-215(c) of the Illinois Vehicle Code,
(Ill. Rev. Stat. 1973, ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-215(c)), to which
you refer, provides:

"(c) Blue oscillating, rotating or flashing
lights, whether lighted or unlighted, are
prohibited except on:

1. The front of any motor vehicle owned or
fully operated by a volunteer fireman, paid
fireman, part-paid fireman, or call fireman
while responding to a fire call; and

* * *

The above cited language clearly indicates that such lights,
whether lighted or unlighted, are prohibited on such firemen's
motor vehicles except during the time such firemen are respond-
ing to a fire call.

It is an established rule of statutory construction
that an unambiguous statute must be held to mean what it plainly
expresses (City of Decatur v. German, 310 Ill. 591 (1924);
Droste v. Kerner, 34 Ill. 2d 495, cert. denied, 385 U.S. 456
(1966)) and its plain and obvious meaning may not be enlarged
or restricted. (People ex rel. Chadwick v. Sergel, 269 Ill. 619
(1915); Certain Taxpayers v. Sheahen, 45 Ill. 2d 75 (1970).)

Honorable Jack Hoogasian - 3.

Effect must be given to a statute in accordance with the plain and manifest meaning of the language used in the statute even though it results in great inconvenience. Louisville & N.R. Co. v. Industrial Board of Illinois, 282 Ill. 136 (1917).

Consequently, in answer to your question, it is my opinion that blue oscillating, rotating or flashing lights on a motor vehicle owned or fully operated by a fireman are prohibited except while such fireman is responding to a fire call.

Very truly yours,

A T T O R N E Y G E N E R A L