



**FIREARMS DIVISION**  
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Facsimile: (916) 227-3700

October 8, 1999

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS WHO ATTEMPTED TO REGISTER  
AN ASSAULT WEAPON (S) IN CALIFORNIA AFTER MARCH 31, 1992**

The Roberti-Roos Assault Weapon Control Act of 1989 (Penal Code (PC) sections 12275-12290) restricts and criminalizes possession of certain assault weapons in the State of California. A specific listing of those prohibited assault weapons is contained within PC section 12276. To lawfully possess an assault weapon in California, a person must have lawfully possessed the assault weapon before June 1, 1989 (PC section 12280). Additionally, the assault weapon(s) must also have been registered with the California Department of Justice (DOJ) on or before March 31, 1992 (PC section 12285).

**In an order filed August 21, 1998, the San Francisco Superior Court found that the California DOJ had no authority to register assault weapons after March 31, 1992, and that the provisions of PC section 12285 regarding the registration of assault weapons did not give the DOJ any discretionary authority to register assault weapons after March 31, 1992. Last month the Court of Appeal dismissed the pending appeal. The Superior Court's order is now final.**

In light of the above court ruling, all attempted registrations dated and/or received by DOJ after March 31, 1992, even if previously received and returned by the DOJ, are invalid. If you possess an assault weapon(s) in California that you acquired before June 1, 1989, but did not attempt to register until after March 31, 1992, you may be in violation of the law and therefore, subject to criminal sanctions. **Consequently, you must either: sell the weapon to a DOJ licensed assault weapons dealer (contact DOJ at the number below to find a licensed assault weapon dealer in your area); relinquish the assault weapon(s) to a police or sheriff department pursuant to California PC section 12288; destroy/render the weapon(s) permanently inoperable; or, remove the weapon(s) from the state in accordance with local, state, and federal law prior to January 1, 2000.**

A review of the DOJ's files indicates that your attempted registration of the weapon(s) listed on the attached page was dated and/or received after the March 31, 1992, deadline. Any other weapon(s) that you may have registered **prior** to the registration deadline will continue to remain on the DOJ's assault weapon registration list. The DOJ will refund the fees you paid for

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the assault weapon(s) you attempted to register after the registration deadline. Please complete the attached Late Assault Weapon Registration Fee Refund Request form and return it the address listed on the form within ninety (90) days.

You **must** dispose of your weapon(s) before January 1, 2000. After this date, your name and a description of the weapon(s) listed on the following page(s) will be subject to disclosure to your local police chief or sheriff upon their request. If you elect to relinquish your weapon to your local police chief or sheriff, **you must call the local law enforcement agency prior to delivering the weapon.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this notice, you may contact the DOJ Firearms Division at (916) 227-3703.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Rossi", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

RANDY ROSSI, Director  
Firearms Division

For BILL LOCKYER  
Attorney General

Attachment