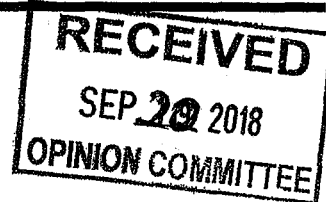


OPINIONCOMMITTEE

RQ-0252-KP

From: Natalie C. Koehler <koehler@bosquecounty.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 11:13 AM
To: OPINIONCOMMITTEE
Subject: Request for Opinion



FILE # ML-48442-18
I.D. # 48442

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

I have been asked by our Sheriff to seek an attorney general's opinion on the right of Bosque County employees and elected officials to carry handguns in the courthouse. In light of opinions KP-0049 and KP-0047, I understand that guns cannot be carried into offices where government court is being held or in offices assisting the court.

Our Sheriff would like to know if the county can prohibit guns carried in our courthouse by any county employee or elected official? Specifically, are the County Auditor's office and Treasurer's office considered offices of those courts? Second, does Bosque County have the legal right through policy to prohibit employees and elected officials from carrying weapons while conducting Bosque County business in the courthouse due to liability?

The Sheriff contends that because our courthouse is small, and there is only one public bathroom and county employees use the same bathroom as defendants, witnesses, etc., the entire courthouse should be considered a "government court". Further, because the auditor and treasurer take in money from the courts, that the auditor's and treasurer's office are considered court offices and guns should be prohibited by these officials and their employees.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this request.

Natalie Cobb Koehler
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