



Fact Sheet: Missouri Concealed Carry Permit Holders

- The SSA OIG operates under the auspices of the *Inspector General Act of 1978*, to improve SSA's programs and operations through independent and objective audits and investigations.
- In order to fulfill this mission, our auditors and investigators regularly explore ways to work in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies to identify fraud in SSA's programs.
- SSA OIG has the authority under Section 6 of the Inspector General Act, "to request such information or assistance as may be necessary for carrying out the duties and responsibilities provided by this Act from any Federal, State, or local governmental agency or unit thereof."
- In November 2011, Special Agent Keith Schilb in our St. Louis, Missouri office contacted the Missouri State Highway Patrol to discuss the idea of a joint investigative project to match a list of Missourians with concealed carry permits against a list of individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on a claim of mental illness or disability.
 - It is our understanding that to obtain a concealed carry permit in the State of Missouri, one must certify that he/she has never been diagnosed with a mental illness/disability.
 - The goal of such a project would have been to identify anyone who legitimately held a concealed carry permit but was fraudulently receiving SSDI/SSI. The project might also aid the State of Missouri in identifying anyone legitimately receiving SSDI/SSI, but who had fraudulently obtained a concealed carry permit.
 - OIG agents in Missouri are already able to view individuals' concealed carry permit status through the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System, during the normal course of their criminal investigations. Special Agent Schilb merely requested the full list in a single file for potential matching purposes.
- As a result of that discussion, Special Agent Schilb consulted with his supervisors, then sent an email to an MSHP employee on November 17, 2011, requesting a list of individuals with concealed carry permits. Agent Schilb received a disk, but it was in a format that he could not utilize. He then destroyed the disk without taking any action or releasing it to anyone.
- In January 2013, after again consulting with his supervisors, Special Agent Schilb renewed by phone his request for this data, and he received another disk, this time with a password-protected file that he was unable to access and he again destroyed the disk. He requested another disk, but after discussions within the OIG, a decision was made not to pursue the project, and Special Agent Schilb never retrieved this disk from MSHP.
- Had the SSA OIG decided to pursue the project, we would have initiated the process to enter into a formal computer matching agreement (CMA) with the State of Missouri, pursuant to the requirements of the *Privacy Act of 1974*, as amended. The Privacy Act requires a CMA between two agencies before a match that will affect Federal benefits can be conducted.
- The SSA OIG is committed to protecting taxpayer money and preventing fraud relating to SSA's benefit programs. We will continue to use our statutory law enforcement authority to pursue investigative projects to this end, always remaining mindful of our legal authority to possess, and responsibility to protect, personally identifiable information of all kinds as well as the privacy of the individuals to whom that information belongs.