

1978 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 128 (S.C.A.G.), 1978 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 78-99, 1978 WL 27419

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 78-99

May 22, 1978

\*1 Persons having reached the age of eighteen (18) can lawfully serve as law enforcement officers in this state.

Executive Director  
Criminal Justice Academy

QUESTION PRESENTED:

Can a person eighteen years of age be legally hired as a police officer?

STATUTES INVOLVED:

[Sections 23–23–50](#) and [7–5–120](#), 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

DISCUSSION:

[Section 23–23–50\(B\)\(7\)](#), 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, provides that, in order for a candidate to be certified by the Law Enforcement Training Council, the Council must be provided with proof that the candidate is at least twenty-one (21) years of age. This Section was enacted in 1970.

[Section 7–5–120](#) was amended on May 14, 1974, to provide that persons at least eighteen years of age, if not otherwise disqualified, could be registered voters.

It is the opinion of this Office that this latter provision supercedes the former and that persons having reached the age of eighteen can lawfully serve as law enforcement officers in this State.

CONCLUSION:

Persons having reached the age of eighteen (18) can lawfully serve as law enforcement officers in this State.

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Assistant Attorney General

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