

1978 WL 34960 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

June 26, 1978

*1 Hon. Randolph Murdaugh, Jr.
Solicitor
Fourteenth Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 457
Hampton, South Carolina 29924

Dear Solicitor Murdaugh:

In response to your inquiry, it is clear to this office that each county in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit must pay its share of the salary and expenses of the circuit's assistant solicitor. Authority for this is found in South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 1-7-520, which provides, in part:

The assistant solicitor shall receive an annual salary equal to one half of that received by the solicitor. He shall also receive the same amount for expenses as received by the solicitor. Each county in the circuit shall pay its pro rata share of such salary and expense allowance based upon population according to the latest official United States census. Such amounts shall be paid monthly in equal payments by the treasurer of each county in the circuit from the general fund of the county.

The South Carolina Supreme Court has consistently stated that a clear and unambiguous statute, such as Section 1-7-520, must be given its literal meaning. [Martin v. Ellisor](#), 223 S.E.2d 415, 266 S.C. 377 (1976), [McMillen Feed Mills, Inc., of South Carolina v. Mayer](#), 220 S.E.2d 221, 265 S.C. 500 (1975), [Southeastern Fire Ins. Co. v. South Carolina Tax Commission](#), 171 S.E.2d 355, 253 S.C. 407 (1969).

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. Barker
Assistant Attorney General

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