

1976 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 284 (S.C.A.G.), 1976 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 4427, 1976 WL 23044

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 4427

August 18, 1976

\*1 Raymond K. Benton, Jr., Esquire  
Assistant County Attorney  
A Exchange Street  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dear Mr. Benton:

You have requested an opinion of this Office as to the propriety of notifying lessors, the occupants of whose premises have been convicted for prostitution, of the uses made of the leased premises. Section 16-409(10), 1962 Code of Laws provides as follows:

It shall be unlawful to:

Lease or rent or contract to lease or rent any vehicle, conveyance, trailer, place, structure or building or part thereof believing or having reasonable cause to believe that it is intended to be used for any of the purposes herein prohibited;

The County Police Department proposes to send a registered letter to any lessor whose lessee has been convicted of prostitution, informing the lessor of the conviction and telling him that he will be charged with the above-quoted offense unless he evicts the convicted tenants within thirty days. It is the opinion of this Office that this is a satisfactory, legitimate, and effective manner of providing the lessor with 'reasonable cause to believe' that his premises are being used for criminal purposes.

If I can be of any further help, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth P. Woodington  
Assistant Attorney General

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