

1973 WL 26752 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 24, 1973

*1 Mr. Samuel H. Crowe
Cherokee County Ambulance Service
Gaffney, South Carolina 29340

Dear Mr. Crowe:

You have inquired as to your authority and that of your drivers to carry pistols as 'special deputies' appointed by a county sheriff. Your regular job is that of Ambulance Service Supervisor, and those working under you are ambulance drivers.

A county sheriff in South Carolina is authorized by law to appoint only regular, full-time deputies for whom salaries are provided in the county supply bill, and industrial deputies under special statute. A sheriff is personally liable for any injury or damage caused by a negligent or unlawful act of any deputy appointed by him—when such act is done as a deputy.

It is the opinion of this Office that so-called special or honorary deputies appointed by county sheriffs do not have authority as peace officers and are not exempt from the State's pistol law.

Yours very truly,

Joseph C. Coleman
Deputy Attorney General

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