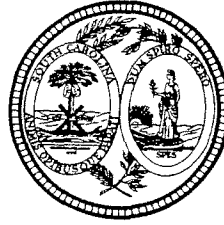


7823 February



The State of South Carolina
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

HENRY McMASTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 31, 2004

Mr. Keith A. Sherlin
SC School for the Deaf and Blind
355 Cedar Spring Road
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29302

Dear Mr. Sherlin:

In a letter to this office you raised a question regarding the school crime incident report form which is forwarded to the Attorney General's office.

You referenced the situation where a student has stolen some money at school. As you indicate, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-24-60 (2004), the school reports the incident to law enforcement. As stated by such provision,

...school administrators must contact law enforcement authorities immediately upon notice that a person is engaging or has engaged in activities on school property or at a school sanctioned or sponsored activity which may result or results in injury or serious threat of injury to the person of another or to another person or his property as defined in local board policy.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-63-350 (2004), local law enforcement officials report such incident to the Attorney General's office as it is a "...crime reported pursuant to Section 59-24-60".

You have asked the correct procedure in filling out the school crime incident report. As to the cases where the incident is handled by the school and no arrest is made, you are correct in your reporting on the incident report under the category of "Handled by school". As you indicate in your letter, an officer may not always make an arrest in a situation but the

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Mr. Sherlin
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officer is required to report the incident to the Attorney General's office if it qualifies to be reported under Section 59-24-60.

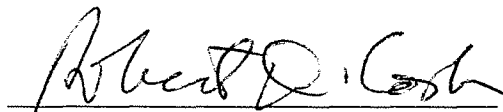
With kind regards, I am,

Very truly yours,



Charles H. Richardson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:



Robert D. Cook
Assistant Deputy Attorney General