



HENRY MCMASTER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 3, 2010

Mark A. Keel, Director  
SC Department of Public Safety  
P. O. Box 1993  
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

Dear Mr. Keel:

In a letter to this office you submitted the following amended language for approval by this office which is to be placed on the back of the State uniform traffic ticket:

**If a court appearance is not mandatory, you may pay your fine online with a credit card for citations issued in participating counties. Go to <http://www.sc.gov/pages/courtpayments.aspx> to determine if online payments are available in the county the citation was issued.**

This suggested language is consistent with an opinion of this office dated November 4, 2009 that while State statutes do not authorize individuals to post bond by credit card, S.C. Code Ann. § 14-1-214 authorizes clerks of court, magistrates, and municipal court judges to "...accept payment by credit card or debit card of a fine, fee, assessment, court cost, or other surcharge; and...impose a fee for processing payment by credit card."

As referenced, while no provision is made for posting bond by credit card, there is statutory authorization for acceptance of the payment of a fine by credit card. Therefore, this office approves the suggested language set forth above for inclusion on the back of the uniform traffic ticket that authorizes payment of a fine online by credit card for citations where a court appearance is not necessary.

Mr. Keel  
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With kind regards, I am,

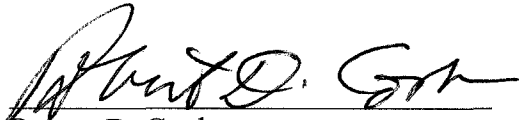
Very truly yours,

Henry McMaster  
Attorney General



By: Charles H. Richardson  
Senior Assistant Attorney General

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:



Robert D. Cook  
Deputy Attorney General