

The State of South Carolina



Office of the Attorney General

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July 27, 1989

Robert M. Stewart, Chief
South Carolina Law
Enforcement Division
P. O. Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1398

Dear Chief Stewart:

In a letter to this Office you questioned whether there would be a conflict of interest for the wife or other member of the immediate family of a commissioned law enforcement officer to own, operate or manage a private detective or private security agency.

The State Ethics Commission in an opinion dated July 19, 1989 advised against a commissioned law enforcement officer or a member of the household, such as a spouse, of a law enforcement officer having an interest in a private detective or private security firm. Based upon the opinion of the State Ethics Commission it appears that it would not be in the public interest for a wife or other immediate family member of a commissioned law enforcement officer to acquire an interest in a private detective or private security agency. Of course, we are making no determinations as to whether certain activities constitute the "private security business" or "private detective business" as defined in Section 40-17-20 of the Code.

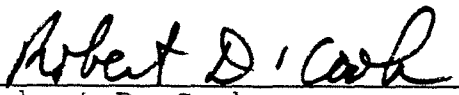
If there is anything further, please advise.

Sincerely,


Charles H. Richardson
Assistant Attorney General

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REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:


Robert D. Cook
Executive Assistant for Opinions