

1983 WL 181720 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

January 20, 1983

***1 Re: Medical Treatment of Sentenced Prisoners—Lancaster County Detention Center**

Philip E. Wright, Esquire
Attorney for Lancaster County
P. O. Box 150
Lancaster, South Carolina 29720

Dear Mr. Wright:

You have recently asked the advices of this Office October 28, 1982, concerning the extent, if any, of the County's obligation to provide medical services to prisoners at the Lancaster County Detention Facility. This issue has been recently addressed in a thorough opinion from our office to the County Attorney for Williamsburg County which I have enclosed for your information and review. Based upon that opinion, it medical expenses incurred by a prisoner while incarcerated at the Detention Center.

The responsibility for medical expenses is not an absolute one however. It depends on the 'status' of the particular prisoner which might place partial responsibility to the Department of Corrections. If the Department of Corrections and the governing body of Lancaster County has entered into a contract whereby the Lancaster County Detention Center is a 'designated prison facility' of the Department pursuant to [§ 24-3-30, Code of Laws](#) (1976) and the prisoner is confined in the local facility pursuant to such designation, the Department of Corrections, rather than the County, may be responsible for some of the medical expenses. See May 23, 1977, Opinion of this Office attached. This would not apply to prisoners convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for three months or less who are under the sole custody, care and control of the County pursuant to [§ 24-3-30, Code of Laws](#) (1976).

I hope this has been of some assistance to you. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Zelenka
Assistant Attorney General

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