

1983 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 160 (S.C.A.G.), 1983 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 83-94, 1983 WL 142763

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 83-94

December 8, 1983

***1 RE: Use of Blue Lights by Private/Premise Security Companies While Enforcing Uniform Act Regulating Traffic (Section 56-5-6310, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, As Amended)**

The Honorable J. P. Strom

Chief

S. C. Law Enforcement Division

Post Office Box 21398

Columbia, South Carolina 29221

Dear Chief Strom:

You have inquired of this office whether or not private and/or premise security companies may utilize blue lights in their security patrol cars while enforcing the Uniform Act regulating traffic, currently set forth at [Section 56-5-6310, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976](#), as amended.

Private/Premise security companies are placed by statute under the jurisdiction and control of the Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. [Section 40-17-30, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA](#), sets forth the powers and duties of the Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, with respect to private/premise security companies. That section provides, in part:

'The Chief of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division shall have the following powers and duties:

. . . (3) To promulgate all rules and regulations necessary in carrying out the provisions of this Chapter.

(4) To establish and enforce standards governing the safety and conduct of persons licensed and registered under the provisions of this Chapter.' (Emphasis Added)

Pursuant to this authority, the Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, has promulgated [Regulation 73-40](#). Section 17 of that Regulation provides as follows:

Paragraph 17: Security patrol cars shall not utilize blue lights or red emergency lights. If a security company feels emergency lights are necessary on their patrol vehicles, they shall be amber in color and utilized only on said property which the security company is patrolling.

This Regulation is consistent with the Law Enforcement Division's authority to establish and enforce standards governing safety and conduct of persons performing duties for private/premise security companies. Accordingly, security companies are expressly prohibited from utilizing blue lights in carrying out their functions and duties. This opinion concurs with a prior opinion of this office dated February 7, 1980, in which the same conclusion is reached. To the extent that today's opinion is inconsistent with a prior opinion dated March 26, 1979, the prior opinion is superseded.

I hope that this is responsive to your inquiry. If further information is desired, please contact me at the above address.

Yours very truly,

M. Richbourg Roberson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

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