

1980 WL 120596 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

January 11, 1980

*1 Sheriff Frank Powell
Richland County Sheriff's Department
1400 Huger Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Sheriff Powell:

You have asked this Office whether it is required that the Sheriff maintain a separate arrest book and warrant-book if the records contained herein have been entered into a computerized record system. It appears that, under certain circumstances, the computerized records would suffice.

The source of the requirement of the maintenance of an arrest book and warrant book is unclear from your letter. However, [Section 23-15-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws](#) (1976) requires that the Sheriff of every county maintain certain books of record. That Section requires that these books of record be of certain paper and binding. Such precise specifications would appear in this day and age to be other than mandatory. However, that Section goes on to require that the information contained in such books of record be set forth in a specific manner and with certain specificity. This latter requirement would seem to be the important consideration in answering your question.

It is the opinion of this Office that if the computerized records were bound and set forth the specific required information in substantially the same manner as required by statute, that the use of said computerized records would be sufficient. It is important to remember that these computerized records be maintained in the same fashion as the present records are kept, open to the public, and maintained permanently.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Elliott
State Attorney

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