

1980 WL 120690 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

February 28, 1980

\*1 Mr. Frank E. Barron, III  
Coroner  
Richland County  
1401 Sumter Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Coroner Barron:

In a letter to this Office you indicated there is a dispute between your office and a law enforcement agency as to who has the primary authority to the control and possession of evidence, personal belongings, or any other articles that may bear on the investigation of a death. You also specifically questioned whether you as coroner would have the exclusive right of control over an automobile involved in a fatal accident.

Enclosed please find a copy of a previous opinion of this Office from former Deputy Attorney General J. C. Coleman dated October 7, 1976, to the effect that law enforcement authorities and the coroner have authority to conduct investigations of a death, but not to the absolute exclusion of the other. I am unaware of any pertinent legislation enacted since the 1976 opinion.

Very truly yours,

Charles H. Richardson  
Assistant Attorney General

1980 WL 120690 (S.C.A.G.)

---

End of Document

© 2015 Thomson Reuters. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.