

1975 WL 29632 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

March 28, 1975

**\*1 In Re: Sheriffs, Power to Appoint Special or Honorary Deputies**

Honorable Ralph Freeman  
Sheriff  
Chesterfield County  
Chesterfield, South Carolina

Dear Sheriff Freeman:

You have inquired as to the authority of a county sheriff to appoint special or honorary deputies with police power.

It is the opinion of this Office that a sheriff is empowered to appoint as his deputies only the regular, salaried deputies for whom specific statutory provision is made, and industrial, park, and circus deputies with limited jurisdiction for whom specific provision is made by statute.

The appointment of a special or honorary deputy by a sheriff, when the power to make such appointment is not specifically provided by statute, constitutes an unlawful delegation of authority, and is a nullity.

Yours very truly,

Joseph C. Coleman  
Deputy Attorney General

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