

1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 82 (S.C.A.G.), 1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3724, 1974 WL 21242

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3724

February 21, 1974

***1 In Re: Blood Samples From Dead Bodies**

Honorable Bernard Stubbs
Coroner
Chesterfield County
c/o Stubbs & Reid Funderal Home
417 Third Street
Cheraw, South Carolina

Dear Coroner Stubbs:

You have inquired whether or not you are empowered to order the drawing of a blood sample from a dead body that is a proper subject of your investigation as Coroner.

Section 17-90, 1962 Code of Laws of South Carolina, empowers coroners to order post mortem examinations of dead bodies found within their counties in order to determine the cause of death.

It is the opinion of this Office that the drawing of a blood sample from a dead body constitutes a 'post mortem examination', although it is not a complete one, and that coroners are empowered to order the drawing of such blood samples when, in their judgment, such action will assist them in ascertaining the cause of death.

Yours very truly,

Joseph C. Coleman
Deputy Attorney General

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