

1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 81 (S.C.A.G.), 1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3723, 1974 WL 21241

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3723

February 21, 1974

**\*1 Barnwell, South Carolina**

**In Re: Dead Bodies, Injury in South Carolina, Death in Another State**

Honorable G. B. Goodwin

Coroner

Barnwell County

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

You have inquired as to your authority to order an autopsy on the dead body of a person who is injured in your County and dies in a hospital in Georgia.

Section 17-90, 1962 Code of Laws of South Carolina, authorizing coroners to order autopsies, applies only when the dead body is found within such coroner's county. A South Carolina coroner has no authority to order an autopsy performed in another state.

On the other hand, when an autopsy is made in another state, the results of that autopsy can be good evidence to establish the fact of a crime committed in South Carolina.

Yours very truly,

Joseph C. Coleman

Deputy Attorney General

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