

1974 WL 27753 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 14, 1974

***1 Re: Your Inquiry of May 1, 1974**

John W. Sowell Jr.
204 S. Pearl Street
Pageland, S. C. 29728

Mr. Sowell:

In reference to your request for a definition of 'Police Officers', I am sending several such definitions so that you may choose the one which best serves your purposes.

Black's Law Dictionary defines 'Police Officer' as One of the staff of men employed in the cities and towns to enforce the municipal police, i.e. The laws and ordinances for preserving the peace and good order of the community. Otherwise called 'Policemen.'

Corpus Juris Secundum says 'Police Officer' is, a term applied to those officers who are appointed for the purpose of the maintenance of public tranquility among the citizens.'

Section 46-246 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1962, as amended, defines a 'police officer' as, 'Every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violation of vehicular and traffic laws . . .' This definition is part of the Uniform Act regulating traffic, so is not a general definition of 'Police Officer.'

The Court in [Burke v. State](#), 47 S.E. 2d 116, 126, 76 Ga. App. 612, defined 'policeman' as follows:

A 'policeman' is a member of the 'police', which is an organized civil force for maintaining order, preventing and detecting crime and enforcing laws, the body of men by which municipal laws and regulations of city, town, or district are enforced.

Should you need any further information concerning this matter, please feel free to consult me.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. Barker
Staff Attorney

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