

1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 245 (S.C.A.G.), 1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3836, 1974 WL 21340

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3836

August 6, 1974

***1 In Re: Law Enforcement Officers, Minimum Age Qualification**

Honorable Edward J. McCown

Chief of Police

Anderson, South Carolina

Dear Chief McCown:

You have inquired whether or not you may employ a person under the age of twenty-one years as a law enforcement officer.

Your question is two-pronged, since you state also that the regulations of your Department impose a minimum 21-year age qualification.

There is no statutory or constitutional prohibition against employment of persons under twenty-one as police officers, so you may employ any person otherwise qualified who is at least eighteen years of age. [Ref.: Art. 17, Sec. 1, Constitution of South Carolina, as to reason for minimum age of eighteen.]

The foregoing does not mean that your Department rule establishing a minimum age of twenty-one years is necessarily invalid. If there is a good reason for imposition of such a rule, and you can show that its requirements establish a rational classification for the lawful purpose intended, such a rule or regulation is reasonable and valid, and, therefore, enforceable.

Yours very truly,

Joseph C. Coleman

Deputy Attorney General

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