

1972 WL 25187 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

January 25, 1972

*1 Mr. E. W. Odom
County Supervisor
Manning, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Odom:

Following your visit to the Attorney General's Office on Friday, January 21, 1972, I consulted with Attorney General McLeod and Deputy Attorney General Goolsby concerning the role of County Supervisor in the area of public property. Attorney General McLeod indicated that he was familiar with the situation and was under the impression that he answered your latest inquiry. He requested that I extend to you his apologies for not doing so.

After reviewing the various statutes pertaining to the operation of the county government in Clarendon County, this Office is of the opinion that the Supervisor has not been given any control over the County property and buildings, if that is what you mean by 'in charge and responsible for.' With reference to the County Courthouse, Section 15-1721 of the South Carolina Code Annotated, specifically places the 'charge' of the Courthouse in the jurisdiction of the clerk of court. Neither Sections 14-251 or 14-1501 gives the County Supervisor any control over the public buildings. It further appears from Act No. 1238, S. C. Acts and Joint Resolutions, 1970, that the County Supervisor's duties have been limited to those of general supervision over the work to be performed in the County since he has been relieved of all responsibilities of matters related to finances and administration. The County Supervisor is dependent upon the Board of Commissioners to appropriate funds for any project that he wishes to undertake. And practically speaking, he is therefore subjected to their supervision and direction.

I reiterate that this opinion is based on the fact that the County Supervisor has not been given any authority by legislation over the public buildings located in Clarendon County.

I regret that our opinion could not be more favorable to you, but if you should have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Hubbard W. McDonald, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

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