



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 13, 2023

Captain William J. Baird
Clover Police Department
112 Bethel St.
Clover, SC 29710

Dear Captain Baird:

We received your letter requesting an Attorney General's opinion on the applicability of section

56-5-765 of the South Carolina Code (2019) when a state highway patrol officer is involved in

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or motorcycle is involved, the State Highway Patrol must investigate the collision and must file a report with findings on whether the agency motor vehicle or motorcycle was operated properly within the guidelines of appropriate statutes and regulations.

(B) When a motor vehicle or motorcycle of the Department of Public Safety is involved in a traffic collision that: (1) results in an injury or death, or (2) involves

a privately-owned motor vehicle or motorcycle, regardless of whether another motor vehicle or motorcycle is involved, the sheriff of the county in which the collision occurred must investigate the collision, regardless of whether the collision

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When interpreting a statute, the primary goal is to determine the General Assembly's intent. Hodges v. Rainev. 341 S.C. 79. 85. 533 S.E.2d 578. 581 (2000) ("The cardinal rule of statutory

intent of the [L]egislature, a court should not focus on any single section or provision but should consider the language of the statute as a whole." In re Hear. Division Litig. 349 S.C. 111 (2004)

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When a motor vehicle or motorcycle of the Department of Public Safety is involved in a traffic collision that: (1) results in an injury or a death, or (2) involves a privately-owned motor vehicle or motorcycle, regardless of whether another motor vehicle or motorcycle is involved, the sheriff of the county in which the collision occurred must investigate the collision, regardless of whether the collision occurred within an incorporated jurisdiction, and must file a report with findings on whether the Department of Public Safety's motor vehicle or motorcycle was involved

appeals within the guidelines of Minnesota statutes and regulations.

Captain William J. Poind

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