



RICHARD P. IEYOUNG
ATTORNEY GENERAL

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CIVIL DIVISION
BATON ROUGE
70804-9005

One American Place
301 Main Street, Suite 600
P.O. Box 94005
TEL (225) 342-7013
FAX: (225) 342-2090

MAR 14 2002

Opinion Number 02-0073

107- SHERIFFS

Mr. Robert C. McCorquodale
In-House Counsel
Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office
1011 Lake Shore Drive, Suite 305
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601

Sheriff can properly negotiate a lease with a private party for the lease of Law Enforcement District property that is not otherwise needed for law enforcement purposes, as long as the Law Enforcement District will receive rental payments commensurate with the value of the property and as long as the lease will be on terms that are beneficial to the Law Enforcement District.

This office is in receipt of your opinion request, as follows:

"The Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office has recently been approached by a local ambulance provider who wishes to house ambulance personnel and an ambulance at one of our law enforcement centers. The law enforcement center is owned by the Law Enforcement District and not the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office. The ambulance service has offered to pay rent and it occurred to us, prior to entering into any type of contract of this nature, we should have some sort of an opinion from the Attorney General's Office regarding the legality of us leasing property owned by the Law Enforcement District to a private enterprise."

Please be advised that this office is unaware of any provision of law which would prohibit a sheriff from properly negotiating a lease with a private party for the lease of Law Enforcement District property that is not otherwise needed for law enforcement purposes, as long as the Law Enforcement District will receive rental payments commensurate with the value of the property and as long as the lease will be on terms that are beneficial to the Law Enforcement District.

We trust the foregoing to be of assistance.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD P. IEYOUNG
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY:


JEANNE-MARIE ZERINGUE BARHAM
Assistant Attorney General

RPI:JMZB:dam