

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



JIM HOOD
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OPINIONS
DIVISION

February 1, 2019

Margaret Murdock, Esquire
Assistant City Attorney
City of Gulfport
Post Office Box 1780
Gulfport, Mississippi 39502-1780

Re: Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program (ALERRT)

Dear Ms. Murdock:

Attorney General Jim Hood received your letter of request and assigned it to me for research and reply.

Background

You state that the City of Gulfport employs several individuals who are certified as Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) instructors and cite Mississippi Code Annotated Section 37-3-82 which establishes the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS).

Section 37-3-82 (2)(g) requires that

“agencies receiving awards through the MCOPS program are required to send the School Resource Officer position(s) funded by this grant, to the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers’ Training Academy where they shall be required to participate in training through the Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program at the academy”.

Question Presented

You ask if an agency, which meets all other requirements set by statute, may qualify for MCOPS grant funding if ALERRT is taught by certified ALERRT instructors at a location other than the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers’ Training Academy.

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Response


No. Section 37-3-82(2)(g) provides that in order for agencies to receive funding from the MCOPS program, such agencies **"are required to send the School Resource Officer position(s) funded by this grant, to the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy** where they shall be required to participate in training through the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program **at the academy, ... "** (Emphasis added.)

Applicable Law

If a statute is plain and unambiguous, there is no need to engage in statutory interpretation. *Dupree v. Carroll*, 967 So.2d 27, 30 (Miss. 2007).

Sincerely,

JIM HOOD, ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: 
Phil Carter
Special Assistant Attorney General

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