

Dear Lodge Officers:

As you know, the SCFOP has the only law enforcement vehicle tag in South Carolina. Many people, both law enforcement and civilian, desire this tag because of its relationship to a professional law enforcement association. There is a DMV policy that requires the clerk to verify that the person receiving the tag be an active member of the FOP. We have found out that sometimes this policy is not always followed.

About 18 months ago, the law (section 56-3-5400 (A)) was changed to make it a criminal offense to display this tag if you were not an active member of the FOP. This is a misdemeanor which carries a penalty of \$100 or sentenced to 30 days in jail, or both. This is considered a secondary offense, which means there must be another reason for a traffic stop before you can charge someone with this violation.

If you have determined that someone is displaying this tag that is not believed to be an active member of the FOP, then you should print the letter and mail certified mail to the offender. Send copies to the State Secretary and the Executive Director (602 Walnut Way, Anderson, SC 29626). They will let you know if this person is actually a member or not. If you have received any notice or correspondence from the offender, then send copies of this to the State Secretary and the Executive Director.

With your help, we should be able to restrict these tags to FOP members. I would ask that you read the actual law before you take any action against an offender. If you have any questions, please email me at jwright@newberrycounty.net.

Fraternally,

Jerry Wright
State President