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Legal Opinions

As the chief law officer of the state, the California Attorney General provides legal opinions upon request to designated state and local public officials and government agencies on issues arising in the course of their duties. The formal legal opinions of the Attorney General have been accorded "great respect" and "great weight" by the courts.

Legal opinions of the Attorney General may be viewed on this website and searched using the online search links below. In addition to searching opinions by year and by key words or phrases, you now can search for opinions by specific citations.

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1. **Who may request an Attorney General's opinion?**
2. **What is the process for requesting an opinion?**
3. **How significant are the Attorney General's opinions?**

Courts have referred to the Attorney General's opinions in several ways, including:

"Although an official interpretation of a statute by the Attorney General is not controlling, it is entitled to great respect." (Thorning v. Hollister School Dist. (1992) 11 Cal.App.4th 1598, 1604.)

"Opinions of the Attorney General, while not binding, are entitled to great weight. [Citations.] In the absence of controlling authority, these opinions are persuasive 'since the legislature is presumed to be cognizant of that construction of the statute.' [Citation.]" (Napa Valley Educators' Assn. v. Napa Valley Unified School Dist.(1987) 194 Cal.App.3rd 243, 251.)
4. **Are Attorney General's opinions public?**
5. **What do Attorney General's opinions address?**
6. **Will opinions be provided on conflict-of-interest questions?**
7. **Will opinions be issued interpreting local laws?**
8. **Are opinions issued on pending legislation or proposed constitutional amendments?**
9. **Will opinions be issued on legal questions involving pending litigation?**
10. **How long does it take to write an Attorney General's opinion?**
11. **How do I submit my views concerning questions that had been submitted to the Attorney General for an opinion?**
12. **How can I receive a copy of an Attorney General's opinion?**
13. **What is Quo Warranto?**

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