



**WILLIAM J. SCOTT**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
SPRINGFIELD

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FILE NO. S-1129

**PUBLIC HEALTH:**  
Duty of County Health  
Department to Provide  
School Districts with  
Health Services

Honorable Frank G. Schniederjoh  
State's Attorney  
Effingham County  
Effingham, Illinois 62401

Dear Mr. Schniederjoh:

I have your letter wherein you ask the following  
questions:

1. Is a county health department required to provide school districts with health services?
2. May a county health department charge school districts which have contracted for health services?

The answer to your first question is that a county health department is not required to provide school districts

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with health services. The duties of county health departments are described in section 20c13 of "AN ACT in relation to the establishment and maintenance of county and multiple-county public health departments". (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1975, ch. 111 1/2, par. 20c13.) Health departments are required to make health inspections and to enforce health laws and ordinances. They also have a duty, upon request, to advise school authorities on matters pertaining to public health. However, there is no express provision in section 20c13 that requires health departments to deliver health services to school districts; nor can such a requirement be implied from the language of section 20c13. The answer to your first question is thus in the negative.

In response to your second question, section 20c13 authorizes county health departments to contract for the sale of health services to political subdivisions. That section provides in pertinent part as follows:

\* \* \*

The board of health of each county or multiple-county health department may:

\* \* \*

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5. Enter into contracts with municipalities,  
other political subdivisions and non-official  
agencies for the purchase, sale or exchange of  
health services;

\* \* \*

A health department's power to sell health services to political subdivisions clearly authorizes the department to charge school districts which have contracted for health services. The answer to your second question is thus in the affirmative.

Very truly yours,

A T T O R N E Y   G E N E R A L