



State Ethics Commission of Georgia

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 1987-18
September 10, 1987

SUBJECT: REPORTING UNDER § 21-5-31(a)

ADVISORY OPINION

1. Where an individual gives money to a political party and does not indicate that the money should go to candidates for elected office, the individual is not required to file a report under Ga. Code Ann. § 21-5-31(a). Where an individual expends any amount on a candidate through indirect means such as an earmarked contribution to a political party, a report must be filed by both the individual and the political party.
2. A political party which expends its own funds on general operating expenses is not required to file a disclosure report listing the operating expenses as expenditures. However, if the funds come from individuals who intend for the money to be used for contributions to candidates, the amounts received must be reported as contributions. The amounts expended on operating expenses do not have to be reported as expenditures because they are not made “for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election of any person.” Ga.Code Ann. § 21-5-3(9).
3. Where a political party makes contributions to more than one candidate in the aggregate of more than \$500, it must report all of its contributors of amounts of \$101 or more and also all of its expenditures on behalf of candidates. Where the contribution received by a political party is \$101 or more, that contribution must be disclosed in keeping with the other disclosure requirements of the amended Act.