

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA

January 24, 1934

Hon. Charles O. Beals
Commissioner of Labor
Augusta, Maine

Dear Sir:

In your inquiry of January 23, you ask,--

"Does an inside ladder or stairway leading from the third story to the roof, from which the only means of egress to the street is through the skylight and down the stairs of another building, constitute a fire escape within the meaning of Section 38 of Chapter 35, R. S.?"

My answer is in the negative.

In Bouvier's Law Dictionary, Vol. 2, Page 1231, Fire Escape is defined as "An apparatus constructed to afford a safe and convenient method of escape from a burning building".

Another definition of Fire Escape is found in Words and Phrases as follows:

"A fire ladder is a fire escape, and fire escapes used in complaint for death of a person in a hotel fire, include fire ladders of such sort and location as to permit safe descent of persons caught in a building on fire. Neither a balcony nor an interior staircase in a hotel can be regarded as a 'fire escape'.

It appears to me that the words "fire escape" in connection with a building contemplate an arrangement of ladders attached to the outside of the building.

Very truly yours,

SLF H

Deputy Attorney General