

1981 WL 158184 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

March 16, 1981

*1 Mr. Hubert D. Osteen, Jr.
Editor
The Sumter Daily Item
Sumter, SC 29150

Dear Mr. Osteen:

After reviewing your letter of March 10, 1981, Tuomey Hospital appears to fall within the parameters of Section 30-4-20(a) of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Section 30-4-20(a) defines 'Public Body':

(a) 'Public body' means any department of the State, any state board, commission, agency and authority, any public or governmental body or political subdivision of the State, including counties, municipalities, townships, school districts and special purpose districts, or any organization, corporation or agency supported in whole or in part by public funds or expending public funds and includes any quasi-governmental body of the State and its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, such bodies as the South Carolina Public Service Authority and the South Carolina Ports Authority.

It is apparently the intent of this definition, and this Office so interprets the above definition, to encompass any organization or corporation receiving or expending public funds. The Sumter County Council, from the information provided for review, is using public funds to cover the cost of medical care for indigent patients to Tuomey Hospital. The Hospital, by accepting public funds, brings itself within the ambit of the application of the Freedom of Information Act and must comply with the 'open meetings' requirement of the Act as well as the other requirements contained in [Sections 30-4-10, et seq, South Carolina Code of Laws \(1976\)](#) as amended.

I hope that this comment will clarify matters for you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Judith Evans Finuf
Assistant Attorney General

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