

1977 WL 36988 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

December 13, 1977

***1 Re: Rule on Disciplinary Proceedings Paragraph 18**

Honorable W. W. Wilkins, Jr.
Solicitor
13th Judicial Circuit
408 E. North Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

Dear Solicitor Wilkins:

You have asked this Office for an opinion as to whether or not the above Rule prohibits an individual from discussing facts or actions relating to events or circumstances which may be the subject of disciplinary proceedings against an attorney.

The above Rule in no way prohibits any individual, whether that person be a witness, respondent or otherwise connected with a disciplinary matter, from discussing the facts and actions of a particular attorney, regardless of whether or not those same actions are the basis for a disciplinary proceeding. The above Rule merely makes confidential the existence of such a hearing and protects the attorney from undue publicity with reference to the allegations against him.

Again, let me emphasize that this Rule is not designed to prohibit a State agency from independently investigating the facts of an alleged incident and cannot be the basis by which a person, or persons, refuses to give information and facts pertaining to such incident.

Sincerely,

A. Camden Lewis
Assistant Attorney General

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