



The State of South Carolina
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

HENRY McMASTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 1, 2004

The Honorable Carl C. Brown, Jr.
Judge Superior Courts
Augusta Judicial Circuit
320 City-County Building (11)
Augusta, Georgia 30911

Dear Judge Brown:

In a letter to this office you indicated that at the request of your former secretary, as a judge, you performed a marriage ceremony in Aiken, South Carolina on April 7, 2004. According to your letterhead, you are a judge of the Superior Courts for the Augusta, Georgia Judicial Circuit.

S.C. Code Ann. Section 20-1-20 (1985) provides that "(o)nly ministers of the Gospel or accepted Jewish rabbis and officers authorized to administer oaths in this State are authorized to administer a marriage ceremony in this State." While this office has no authority to declare a marriage invalid, I am unaware of any authority providing that a Georgia judge has the power to perform a marriage in South Carolina.

With kind regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Charles H. Richardson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Robert D. Cook
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

Request Letter