

# The State of South Carolina



## Office of the Attorney General

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November 27, 1991

The Honorable Roger M. Young  
Member, House of Representatives  
8121 Greenridge Road  
North Charleston, South Carolina 29418

Dear Representative Young:

In a letter to this Office you questioned the status of the law on physician-related suicides in this State.

I am unaware of any State statutes or case law in this State that directly comments on the issue of physician-related suicides. The only provision with which I am familiar that may be relevant in examining such issue is Section 44-77-110 of the Code, a provision of this State's Death With Dignity Act, which states

The execution and consummation of declarations made in accordance with Sections 44-77-40 and 44-77-50 ... (the Death With Dignity Act) ... do not constitute suicide for any purpose.

The referenced Act provides for the withholding of life sustaining procedures in the circumstances provided.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Charles H. Richardson in cursive.

Charles H. Richardson  
Assistant Attorney General

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REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Handwritten signature of Robert D. Cook in cursive.

Robert D. Cook  
Executive Assistant for Opinions