

1977 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 266 (S.C.A.G.), 1977 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 77-335, 1977 WL 24674

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 77-335

October 27, 1977

*1 Samuel J. Abrams, Esquire
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 1947
Sumter, South Carolina 29150

Dear Mr. Abrams:

You have requested an opinion as to whether or not a public hospital in South Carolina can directly hire physicians and nurses, and then bill the patient for the physicians' fees. Based on the facts given in your letter, I know of no statutory prohibition against such a procedure.

There is no law on this subject which would apply to all hospitals in the State. However, certain hospitals in South Carolina are permitted to employ physicians and nurses, and to fix charges and fees. See §§ 44-7-1060, 1330, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976.

I do not know how this will apply to the facts of your case, but I hope it will be of some assistance. If you have further questions on this matter, you might talk with Mr. Preston Callison of Columbia, who is an attorney retained by the South Carolina Hospital Association.

With kind regards,

Karen LeCraft Henderson
Assistant Attorney General

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