

1983 WL 181736 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

February 4, 1983

**\*1 Re: Information Concerning Compensation Paid to Employees and Officers of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina**

Ms. Susan P. Hutton

Dobson & Dobson  
Attorneys at Law  
P. O. Box 426  
Greenville, SC 29602

Dear Ms. Hutton:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated January 25, 1983, by this Office and to thank you for your concern for the public interest. As I am sure you realize, the State has, under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, required that public bodies make information available to the public concerning name, sex, race, title and dates of employment of all employees and officers of public bodies, as well as the salaries of those officers and employees at the level of department head or above. However, these requirements extend only to public bodies. The State lacks the authority to legislate the release of this type of information in the private sector. While, for instance, under Section 30-4-50(6) information in or taken from any account, voucher or contract dealing with the receipt or expenditure of public funds or other funds by public bodies is declared public information, the State cannot require that similar information dealing with private contracts be disclosed by private corporations, even those which contract with the State.

While I sympathize with your position, the South Carolina Constitution guarantees the right of privacy to the individuals of this State and, on that guarantee, the State may not impinge.

Sincerely,

Judith Evans Finuf  
Assistant Attorney General

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