

1979 WL 43035 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 29, 1979

***1 Re: [Section 59-111-530 Code of Laws for South Carolina 1976, as amended](#)**

Dr. John H. Hubbard
Member of South Carolina State Board of Dentistry
302 West Birnie Street
Gaffney, South Carolina 29340

Dear Dr. Hubbard:

You have requested clarification and interpretation of [§ 59-111-530](#) of the amended Code. Your particular interest is an interpretation of the phrase ‘a service area within this state which has . . . a ratio of not more than one dentist for each 6,000 people.’ The service area in question is Blacksburg which, according to figures, has a population of 6,574 and no practicing dentist therein.

The beneficiary of a dental scholarship under [§ 59-111-530](#) must agree to engage in the practice of dentistry in an eligible service area, that is, a service area of ‘not more than one dentist or each 6,000 people’ (i.t. 1:6,000). Thus, if the service area has a dental population of less than one per 6,000 population then the service area may be served by a dental scholarship recipient. It is apparent that the Blacksburg area is eligible to be served by one scholarship recipient. However, even if the Blacksburg service area is served by one licensed dentist it would remain eligible for a second scholarship recipient. This conclusion is mandated because the Blacksburg area would still be a service area which has a ratio of not more than one dentist for each 6,000 people.

Accordingly, it is the opinion of this Office that since the Blacksburg service area has a population of greater than 6,000 people and no licensed dentist, it would be eligible for two scholarship placements.

Should you have any further questions concerning this matter, please feel free to call on this Office. ¹

I remain,
Very truly yours,

Edwin E. Evans
Assistant Attorney General

Footnotes

- ¹ The interpretation reached herein is consistent with that of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the agency charged with execution of §§ 59-111-520, *et seq.* The interpretation of statutes by the agency authorized to execute and administer them is entitled to great weight. [Faile v. South Carolina Employment Security Commission](#), 267 S.C. 536, 230 S.E.2d 219.

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