

1975 WL 29696 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

April 11, 1975

*1 Honorable Herbert D. Morgan
Member
House of Representatives
Oconee County
Seneca, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Morgan:

You have inquired whether a county hospital operated by the Oconee Hospital Association may withhold as public information to the press the list of patients admitted. It is my understanding that public monies are received by the hospital.

It is my opinion that the hospital is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act in that it is supported in whole, or in part, by public funds or expends public funds. Section 1-20.1, Code of Laws (1962). Agencies subject to the Freedom of Information Law must make available public records kept by that agency. Excluded from the records which are subject to public disclosure are, among others, 'medical records.' Also excluded are those records 'concerning which it is shown that the public interest is best served by not disclosing them to the public.'

It is my opinion that the admission of patients is a medical record not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law.

Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod
Attorney General

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