

1975 WL 29102 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

August 27, 1975

*1 Mr. H. T. Abbott, III
313 Main Street
Conway, SC 29526

Dear Mr. Abbott:

This Office is in receipt of your inquiry as to the authority for a rule concerning the release of certain information, particularly marriage licenses, by the Bureau of Vital Statistics. I have researched the matter, and I am unable to find a ruling issued by the Attorney General's Office on the point in question. However, I refer you to Section 13.1 (a)(3) of the Rules and Regulations Governing Vital Statistics in South Carolina (Disclosure of Records), a copy of which I have enclosed, which describes the parties to whom and the circumstances under which marriage certificates may be released: (a) Except as otherwise provided, the State Registrar or the county registrar shall disclose information contained in vital records only when he is satisfied that the applicant therefore has a direct and tangible interest in the content of the record and that the information contained therein is necessary for the determination or protection of a personal or property right.

(3) In the case of marriage certificates, the parties married, their adult children, or their respective legal representatives shall be considered to have a direct and tangible interest.

It thus appears that Section 13.1(a)(3) is the actual basis for the Bureau's inability to disclose the requested information to you.

If you desire any further assistance, please feel free to contact this Office.

Sincerely,

Ivan N. Nossokoff
Law Clerk

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