

1974 WL 27630 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

February 12, 1974

**\*1 RE: Physical Therapy Assistants**

Mrs. Rachel H. Faile, R.P.T.

President

S. C. State Board of Examination and Registration of Physical Therapists

Route 3

Box 207

Woodruff, S. C. 29368

Dear Mrs. Faile:

You inquire whether or not a patient for whom physical therapy has been prescribed must first be physically seen by a registered physical therapist prior to receiving treatment from a physical therapy assistant. This question appears answered by Section 56-1349.5, S. C. Code of Laws, as amended, which provides:

A person registered under this chapter as a physical therapy assistant shall perform his duties only after the initial examination and evaluation of the patient by a registered physical therapist, with the requirement of periodic reexamination and reevaluation of the patient and his treatment program by such therapist, at frequent intervals, not less than after every seventh treatment given by the assistant.

In the opinion of this office, the language of this statute clearly evidences an intent by the Legislature that physical therapy assistants be well supervised. Accordingly, it is the opinion of this office that the Legislature further intended that the required 'initial examination on evaluation of the patient by a registered physical therapist' should be done in person.

Very truly yours,

John B. Grimball

Assistant Attorney General

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