

1974 WL 27708 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

April 10, 1974

***1 RE: Practice of Dentistry.**

R. Lee Walthall, Esquire
University Counsel
University of Alabama in Birmingham
University Station
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

Dear Mr. Walthall:

The Attorney General, having recently been away from this office due to an unfortunate automobile accident involving his daughter, has asked that I reply to your letter of April 3rd regarding the training of dental students in public hospital clinics.

The South Carolina Dental Practice Act, Section 56-63.1 et seq, S. C. Code of Laws, as amended, does include a definition of dentistry such as is embodied in Section 120(10) of the Alabama Code. See S. C. Code Section 56-37.7 (Supp. 1973). This section, together with several others, combined to raise definite legal questions regarding, not the legality of training dental students at a location remote from the Dental College, but rather as to the authority of the State Board of Dentistry to regulate and supervise the nature of the activities which these unlicensed dental students could engage in. The primary concern of the State Board of Dentistry was that the quality or degree of supervision in such remote clinics might be insufficient to protect the public health.

These questions regarding the authority of the State Board of Dentistry to regulate what was ostensibly a geographical extension of the Dental College's classrooms were still unresolved when the State Board of Dentistry withdrew its opposition to the proposal. Accordingly, no position on such questions has been taken by this office and, frankly, under South Carolina law the answers are not entirely clear.

Very truly yours,

John B. Grimball
Assistant Attorney General

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