

1974 WL 27826 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

June 25, 1974

**\*1 RE: Death Certificates**

J. M. McLendon, Esquire

Attorney at Law

511 Witcover Street

Marion, S. C.

Dear Mr. McLendon:

By letter dated May 24, 1974, you request an opinion of this office regarding who is authorized to pronounce a person dead. I advise that pursuant to Section 32-1102, S. C. Code of Laws (1962), the State Board of Health and Environmental Control, operating through its Bureau of Vital Statistics, is responsible for establishing regulations governing the registration of deaths in this State. Accordingly, I enclose copies of the most recent rules and regulations of the State Board of Health and Environmental Control concerning death and fetal death registration.

These rules, filed with the Secretary of State on June 19, 1973, prescribe who is to sign death certificates under various circumstances. You will note that only physicians/medical to almoners and coroner are currently authorized to sign death certificates. In the opinion of this office these provisions are valid and govern the questions which you have raised. If you have questions, please correspond.

Very truly yours,

John B. Grimball

Assistant Attorney General

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