

1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 340 (S.C.A.G.), 1974 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3905, 1974 WL 21401

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3905

December 9, 1974

\*1 The Honorable Toney J. Lister  
Member  
House of Representatives  
210 N. Church Street  
Post Office Box 6291  
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Dear Mr. Lister:

This is in reference to your inquiry concerning the following facts: You represent a licensed chiropractor who wants to construct a facility to be known and operated as a 'chiropractic hospital'. The practice of surgery will not be administered at this facility, but only chiropractic care. Based upon the foregoing, you have asked for an opinion as to whether a licensed chiropractor may use the word 'hospital' as part of the name for his proposed place of business.

A hospital is generally referred to as an institution or place for the reception and treatment of sick, injured and infirm persons. See Words and Phrases, Vol. 19A Hospital.

The practice of chiropractic is recognized by the laws of this State. Title 56, Chapter 6, Code of Laws of South Carolina (1962). Moreover, the Supreme Court of South Carolina has held that a chiropractor is a practitioner in the field of medicine'. [Williams v. Capital Life & Health Ins. Co.](#), 209 S.C. 512, 518, 41 S.E.2d 208, 210 (1947). Also, this Office has heretofore issued an opinion stating that a duly licensed Doctor of Chiropractic is entitled to use public hospital facilities on an equal basis with practitioners of any other school of medicine which is recognized by South Carolina law. 1966-67 Attorney General Opinions, No. 2308, p. 129.

Your question is one of novel impression in this State, and there is no controlling law in point. However, it is the opinion of this Office that a duly licensed chiropractor may use the word 'hospital' or the term 'chiropractic hospital' as part of the name of his place of business, there being no case or statutory law in this jurisdiction to the contrary.

It should be noted that this opinion addresses itself solely to the issue of the use of the word 'hospital', and no opinion is expressed, or intended to be expressed, as to the licensing aspects, if any, involved in the chiropractic hospital or the use of the word 'hospital' as discussed herein. See the State Hospital Construction and Franchising Act, Section 32-761, et seq., of the 1962 Code of Laws, as amended.

Very truly yours,

Donald V. Myers  
Assistant Attorney General

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