

1973 WL 27661 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 7, 1973

\*1 Mrs. Josephine A. Cannon, ACSW  
Executive Director  
The Children's Bureau of South Carolina  
1001 Main Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mrs. Cannon:

In answer to your request for advice in arriving at a practical definition of the word 'acknowledgement' as used in 'Acknowledged paternity,' there is no statute or case law in South Carolina which states when an individual formally 'acknowledges' a child as his own. Generally, acknowledgement can come either from a written statement as to this fact, which does not necessarily have to be written for the expressed purpose of providing acknowledgement, or from actions which indicate that such a relation exists. Since 'acknowledgement' can be so broadly interpreted, I am of the opinion that as a practical matter the Children's Bureau should narrow the interpretation of 'acknowledgement' to those cases in which the parent acknowledged such relationship in writing or by such actions that would clearly indicate such parental relationship.

Sincerely,

Hardwick Stuart, Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General

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