1973 WL 26890 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina September 18, 1973

*1 re: License Revocation of Hartsville Hospital (Owned by William Bowen, N.D.)

The Honorable Lachlan Hyatt Chairman Board of Health and Environmental Control Butte Knitting Mills Post Office Box 4088 Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303

Dear Mr. Hyatt:

The above hospital is now being operated in the City of Hartsville. It has heretofore received a license to operate as a hospital pursuant to Section 32-784, Code of Laws, 1962. On February 17, 1971, the hospital was advised to install a sprinkler system prior to June 30, 1971. All licenses for hospitals expire one year after the date of their issuance and the licenses are issued annually, being dated January 1 of each year. Thereafter, Dr. Bowen, the owner of the hospital, requested various extensions of time to permit him to install a sprinkler system or to replace the existing hospital by the construction of a new facility. Extensions were granted from time to time, the last being granted September 6, 1972, for a twelve-months period, conditioned upon the installation by that date of a sprinkler system in the hospital or to complete the construction of a new hospital.

Neither of the conditions imposed upon the hospital has been met and the license under which the hospital has heretofore been operating expired on September 6, 1973.

Accordingly, if the Hartsville Hospital is now being operated as a hospital, it is doing so in violation of the law, and it is my information that it is being so operated.

Based upon the foregoing facts, it is my opinion that your Board should secure an injunction restraining the hospital from being further operated as a hospital. It further appears that a reasonable provision may also be sought to permit an adequate time, which I am informed is approximately fifteen days, for the removal of patients from the existing hospital, and that no further patients be admitted to the hospital.

Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod Attorney General

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