

1976 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 216 (S.C.A.G.), 1976 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 4380, 1976 WL 22999

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 4380

June 23, 1976

*1 Mrs. Ruth Q. Seigler, R.N.
Executive Director
State Board of Nursing for South Carolina
1777 St. Julian Place
Columbia, SC 29204

Dear Mrs. Seigler:

You have requested an opinion from this Office as to whether a Registered Nurse may inject a 1% carbocaine solution into a caudal anesthetic of a pregnant patient in active labor.

The State Board of Nursing has already determined that the administration of anesthesia of any type is an 'additional [act] requiring special education and training which [is] recognized jointly by the medical and nursing professions as proper for such nurse to perform' and under § 56-951(f), South Carolina Code. This determination is embodied in the Statements relating to the new practice disciplines of Certified Nurse Midwife and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. There is no question that injecting a 1% carbocaine solution into a caudal anesthetic falls within the functions listed as 'additional acts' in the Statements for both specialties.

Since the Board has determined that this practice requires special education and training, the Board should prohibit any nurse from performing it until she has met the training and certification requirements set forth in the two Statements mentioned above. As § 56-951(f) indicates, the Board has regulatory authority, which would include the power of prohibition, over 'additional acts.'

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth P. Woodington
Assistant Attorney General

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