

1979 WL 43595 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

September 19, 1979

*1 Honorable Alex Harvin, III
Member
House of Representatives
432-C Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative Harvin:

In response to your inquiries concerning certain practices of a pastoral counselor, I can advise you as follows:

1. [Section 40-55-90 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina](#), 1976, provides in part:

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed: (a) to prevent qualified members of other professional groups, such as . . . , clergymen, . . . from doing work of a psychological nature consistent with their training and with the codes of ethics of their respective professions; . . .

Accordingly, a pastoral counselor can continue to practice as such and, at the same time, display his degree in clinical psychotherapy in his office.

2. [Section 40-55-70 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina](#), 1976, provides in part:

It shall be unlawful for any person not licensed under this chapter to present himself or be presented to the public by any title incorporating the name 'psychologist,' 'psychological,' or 'psychology, . . .'

Inasmuch as the term 'clerical psychotherapist' does not incorporate any of the names which the law does not permit unlicensed persons to use, a pastoral counselor who has a degree as a clinical psychotherapist may refer to himself as such.

With kind regards,

Karen LeCraft Henderson
Senior Assistant Attorney General

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