

1975 WL 174061 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

May 23, 1975

*1 Dr. William S. Hall
State Commissioner of Mental Health
Post Office Box 485
2414 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Dr. Hall:

Your letter of May 1, 1975, addressed to the Attorney General, has been referred to me for consideration and reply.

I asked Ed Evans to look into the matter concerning the questions posed in your letter, and Ed has prepared a memorandum which I have read and agree with.

I would like to add one additional comment with reference to Ed's memorandum on disclosure by telephone of a patient's being a patient currently or an ex-patient. Our Section 32-1022 was adopted in its basic form from Section 23 of The Draft Act Governing Hospitalization of the Mentally Ill, and the comments to Section 23 clearly indicate that "The purpose of this section is to protect patients and those whose hospitalization has been sought under the Act against the morbidly or maliciously curious who may, by taking advantage of the stigma which mental illness still connotes to many minds, cause social or economic injury to the individuals involved and their families."

If you feel you need any further clarification on any questions raised in your letter of May 1, 1975, we will be most happy to confer with you at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Raymond G. Halford
Assistant Attorney General

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