

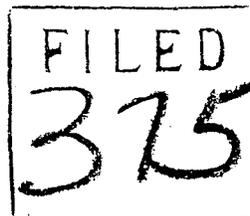
HOSPITALS:
HOSPITAL DISTRICTS:
AMBULANCE SERVICE:

The Reynolds County Hospital District organized under Chapter 206, RSMo., may provide an ambulance service to the inhabitants of the hospital district as an incident to the operation of the

hospital. Such service may only be provided after the hospital is established. The District cannot furnish a general ambulance service provided for in Section 67.300, RSMo. Supp. 1967.

OPINION NO. 375

December 12, 1968



Honorable William H. Bruce, Jr.
Prosecuting Attorney
Reynolds County Court House
Centerville, Missouri 63633

Dear Mr. Bruce:

This is an answer to your letter of August 27, 1968, asking our office for an official opinion on the following question:

"The County Court has received a petition asking it to provide ambulance service under Section 67.300 and does not wish to do so.

Can the Reynolds County Hospital District organized under Chapter 206 provide such service? If so, can the District provide such service, even before the hospital is completed?"

Chapter 206, RSMo Cum. Supp. 1967, which is known as the Hospital District Law, sets forth the procedures by which a hospital district is created and the powers that the district exercises. Specifically, the powers that a hospital district can exercise are set out in Section 206.110. Subsection 1 of that section states that a hospital district has the power:

"To establish and maintain a hospital and hospital facilities within its corporate limits, and to construct, acquire, develop, expand, extend and improve any such hospital or hospital facility."

This section gives the hospital district, through its directors, the power to operate and manage the hospital and hospital facilities, and to charge and collect reasonable fees and compensation for the

Honorable William H. Bruce -

use of the hospital and hospital facilities, and for other services furnished by the hospital and hospital facilities. The hospital district has power to enter into contracts for the employment of persons and corporations who furnish services which are necessary or desirable in accomplishing the purposes of the hospital district. The law does not make any specific reference to ambulance service, therefore, if a hospital district is to have the power to furnish ambulance service to the persons living within the district, this power must be inferred from those powers which are specifically delegated by the statutes.

Subsection 6 of Section 206.110 states that a hospital district has power:

"To employ or enter into contracts for the employment of any person, firm, or corporation, and for professional services, necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the corporate objects of the district or the proper administration, management, protection or control of its property."

Pursuant to this provision a hospital district may employ professional services which aid in accomplishing the corporate objects of the district. We feel that an ambulance service comes within the ambit of medical and professional services. The corporate objects of the hospital district are to provide hospital care and protection for the inhabitants. We think that an ambulance service aids in accomplishing the general, broad objects of the hospital district. In many cases, it is indispensable in order that a person may avail himself of the hospital, hospital facilities, and hospital services. Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that a hospital district can furnish ambulance service to the inhabitants of the hospital district since it aids in accomplishing the corporate objects of the district.

However, it is also our opinion that an ambulance service cannot be provided before the hospital is completed since it is an incident to the operation of the hospital. There is no authority for a Hospital District to furnish a general ambulance service provided for under provisions of Section 67.300, RSMo. Supp. 1967.

CONCLUSION

The Reynolds County Hospital District organized under Chapter 206, RSMo., may provide an ambulance service to the inhabitants of the hospital district as an incident to the operation of the hospital. Such service may only be provided after the hospital is established. The district cannot furnish a general ambulance service provided for in Section 67.300, RSMo. Supp. 1967.

Honorable William H. Bruce -

The foregoing opinion, which I hereby approve, was prepared by my Assistant, Gary G. Sprick.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman H. Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

NORMAN H. ANDERSON
Attorney General