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January 17, 1995

Re: Request for Ethics Opinion 94-23

Dear

You have requested an opinion from this Committee questioning whether or not the South Dakota Rules of Professional Conduct allow you to report non-paying clients to the credit bureau.

OPINION

It is the opinion of this Committee that you may not report non-paying clients to the credit bureau. Doing so is not necessary to establish your fee claim, risks compromising confidentiality, and smacks of punishment in trying to lower the client's credit rating. See, Rule 1.6(b)(2); South Carolina Ethics Opinion 94-11.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael S. McKnight, Chairman
Ethics Committee

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