

December 17, 1942

Dr. J. Citron, Secretary  
State Board of Chiropractic Examiners  
319 Professional Building  
Phoenix, Arizona

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**ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Dear Sir:

We have your recent letter requesting an opinion as to whether or not a chiropractor licensed under Chap. 112 Laws of 1941, is allowed to use or prescribe narcotics in furtherance of professional duties.

The Arizona Uniform Narcotics Act of 1935 defines a physician as a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy, or otherwise licensed to treat sick and injured human beings, and to use narcotic drugs in connection with such treatment.

Sec. 68-811, being Sec. 11 of the Uniform Narcotic Act, states:

"A physician, osteopath, or a dentist, in good faith and in the course of his professional practice only, may prescribe, administer, and dispense narcotic drugs, or he may cause the same to be administered by a nurse or interne under his direction and supervision."

If, therefore, a chiropractor falls within the meaning of a physician, as used in the Uniform Narcotics Act, he may prescribe, administer and dispense narcotic drugs in good faith in the course of his professional practice. We believe that a chiropractor falls within the latter portion of the definition of "physician" as used in said section to wit:

"or otherwise licensed to treat sick and injured human beings, and to use narcotic drugs in connection with such treatment."

We come to this conclusion from a definition of the word "chiropractic" as used in Chap. 112, Laws of 1941, which reads as follows:

"Chiropractic means diagnosis or medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, or electrical treatment of ailments of the human foot and leg, but does not include amputation of foot, toe or leg, nor administration of an anesthetic other than local."

Certainly a chiropractor is a person licensed to treat sick and injured human beings and it is implied by the above definition of "chiropractic" that he may use anesthetics of a local nature. It is common knowledge that anesthetics of a local nature include narcotic anesthetics. Therefore, he is entitled to use narcotic drugs in connection with his treatment of sick and injured human beings, and falls, therefore, within the definition of "physician" as used in the Uniform Narcotics Act.

Such being so, it is our opinion that he may in good faith and in

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the course of his professional practice only, prescribe, administer and dispense narcotic drugs, or cause the same to be administered by a nurse or interne under his direction and supervision.

Yours very truly,

JOE CONWAY  
Attorney General

EDWARD P. CLINE  
Assistant Attorney General

EARL ANDERSON  
Chief Assistant  
Attorney General.