

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1994 SESSION

CHAPTER 198

An Act to amend and reenact § 8.01-400 of the Code of Virginia, relating to communications between ministers of religion and persons they counsel or advise.

[H 423]

Approved April 2, 1994

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 8.01-400 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 8.01-400. Communications between ministers of religion and persons they counsel or advise.

No regular minister, priest, rabbi, or accredited practitioner over the age of eighteen years, of any religious organization or denomination usually referred to as a church, shall be required ~~in giving~~ to give testimony as a witness *or to relinquish notes, records or any written documentation made by such person, or disclose the contents of any such notes, records or written documentation, in discovery proceedings* in any civil action ~~to which would~~ disclose any information communicated to him in a confidential manner, properly entrusted to him in his professional capacity and necessary to enable him to discharge the functions of his office according to the usual course of his practice or discipline, wherein such person so communicating such information about himself or another is seeking spiritual counsel and advice relative to and growing out of the information so imparted.