FORM 4

FILED

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF FLORENCE
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

JUDGMENT IN A CIVIL CASE
CASE NUMBER 2021CP2102467

2022 DEC 28 AM 11: 24

DORIS POULOS O'HARA
CCCP & GS
FLORENCE COUNTY, SC

Dorthea Ryles	Edith W Ryles Estate Of	Leon Ryles Willie Ryles	Theresa Williams

PLAINTIFF(S) DEFENDANT(S)

Submitted by:	Attorney for: ☐ Plaintiff ☐ Defendant ☐ Self-Represented Litigant

DISPOSITION TYPE (CHECK ONE)

☐ **JURY VERDICT.** This action came before the court for a trial by jury. The issues have been tried and a verdict rendered.

☐ **DECISION BY THE COURT.** This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered. ☐ See Page 2 for additional information.

☐ **ACTION DISMISSED (*CHECK REASON*):** ☐ Rule 12(b), SCRCP; ☐ Rule 41(a), SCRCP (Vol. Nonsuit); ☐ Rule 43(k), SCRCP (Settled); ☐ Other: _____

☐ **ACTION STRICKEN (*CHECK REASON*):** ☐ Rule 40(j) SCRCP; ☐ Bankruptcy; ☐ Binding arbitration, subject to right to restore to confirm, vacate or modify arbitration award; ☐ Other: _____

☐ **STAYED DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**

☐ **DISPOSITION OF APPEAL TO THE CIRCUIT COURT (CHECK APPLICABLE BOX):**
☐ Affirmed; ☐ Reversed; ☐ Remanded; ☐ Other:

NOTE: ATTORNEYS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING LOWER COURT, TRIBUNAL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RULING IN THIS APPEAL.

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED: ☐ See attached order; (formal order to follow) ☐ Statement of Judgment by the Court:

ORDER INFORMATION

This order ☐ ends ☐ does not end the case.
Additional Information for the Clerk: _____

INFORMATION FOR THE JUDGMENT INDEX

Complete this section below when the judgment affects title to real or personal property or if any amount should be enrolled. If there is no judgment information, indicate "N/A" in one of the boxes below.

Judgment in Favor of (List name(s) below)	Judgment Against (List name(s) below)	Judgment Amount To be Enrolled (List amount(s) below)

If applicable, describe the property, including tax map information and address, referenced in the order:

The judgment information above has been provided by the submitting party. Disputes concerning the amounts contained in this form may be addressed by way of motion pursuant to the SC Rules of Civil Procedure. Amounts to be computed such as interest or additional taxable costs not available at the time the form and final order are submitted to the judge may be provided to the clerk.
Note: Title abstractors and researchers should refer to the official court order for judgment details.
E-Filing Note: In E-Filing counties, the Court will electronically sign this form using a separate electronic signature page.

12/28/2022

Circuit Court Judge **Judge Code** **Date**

For Clerk of Court Office Use Only

This judgment was entered on **December 28, 2022**, and a copy mailed first class or placed in the appropriate attorney's box on **December 28, 2022**, to attorneys of record or to parties (when appearing pro se) as follows:

James Ross Snell Jr. 123 Harmon Street Lexington, SC 29072

Brown W. Johnson PO Box 1865 Florence, SC 29503

ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF(S)

ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE DEFENDANT(S)

Doris P. O'Hara

Court Reporter

Doris Poulos O'Hara - Clerk of Court

Court Reporter:

E-Filing Note: In E-Filing counties, the date of Entry of Judgment is the same date as reflected on the Electronic File Stamp and the clerk's entering of the date of judgment above is not required in those counties. The clerk will mail a copy of the judgement to parties who are not E-Filers or who are appearing pro se. See Rule 77(d), SCRCP.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING DECISION BY THE COURT AS REFERENCED ON PAGE 1.

This action came to trial or hearing before the court. The issues have been tried or heard and a decision rendered.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED - 2022 Dec 28 11:12 AM - FLORENCE - COMMON PLEAS - CASE#2021CP2102467

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF FLORENCE	)	C/A NO. 2021-CP-21-02467
Dorthea Ryles,	)	
	)	
Appellant,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	**ORDER**
	)	
Leon Ryles, Willie N. Ryles, and Theresa Williams,	)	
	)	
Respondents,	)	
	)	
IN RE:	)	
	)	
The Estate of Edith W. Ryles, Estate File: 2018-ES-21-00899	)	

THIS MATTER COMES BEFORE ME on an appeal of an Order of Judgment from the Florence County Probate Court which found the decedent lacked testamentary capacity to execute both a power of attorney and will. In addition, the Probate Court ruled the power of attorney and will were the product of undue influence exercised by the appellant. The Order of Judgment also held the appellant breached her fiduciary duty as power of attorney by gifting herself. After reviewing the Order of the Probate Court and hearing arguments from the parties, I find there is an abundance of evidence supporting the findings and Order of the Probate Court.

Two months before signing the power of attorney, Edith Ryles was found in the middle of the street on her walker in a bathrobe confused and disoriented, not knowing where she was. Several years before the execution of the power of attorney and will, Edith Ryles needed help with her day-to-day activities such as cleaning house, preparing meals, and handling her finances. She

had personal hygiene issues and was confused to the point of believing her husband who had been dead for ten years was still alive. She also thought she had another baby.

No attorney was involved in the preparation and execution of both the power of attorney and will. Dorthea Ryles came from her home in New Jersey under the pretense of helping her siblings with their mother's care and transported her mother to a tax service for the preparation and execution of both documents. The appellant did this without notifying her siblings. When subpoenaed to the trial, the two owners and operators of the tax service invoked their rights under the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions. The tax service was investigated by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office which served a cease-and-desist letter charging the tax service with practicing law without a license. Based on the above facts, the appeal of the Appellant is without merit, and, therefore

IT IS ORDERED, the appeal in this matter is hereby dismissed.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

[PREPARED FOR ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE]

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Florence Common Pleas

Case Caption: Dorthea Ryles , plaintiff, et al VS Leon Ryles , defendant, et al

Case Number: 2021CP2102467

Type: Order/Dismissal

So Ordered

s/ Clifton B. Newman, 2127

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