

February 19, 2024

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SC Court of Appeals

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to formally address several concerns regarding the representation provided by Tucker Player in case number 2021-CP-23-05789, a continuation of case 2019-CP-2302554. Mr. Player assumed the role of legal counsel following the disbarment of our previous attorney, Candy Kern, in South Carolina.

Communication with Mr. Player has been significantly challenging, characterized by extended periods of silence, sometimes lasting weeks or even months. Despite efforts to engage him, including sending a certified letter, Mr. Player has failed to respond adequately.

During a circuit court hearing presided over by the Honorable Leticia Verdin on October 22, 2022, Mr. Player, participating remotely from his vehicle, requested the dismissal of our case to enable an appeal to the Supreme Court, following the precedent set in Gladden vs. Boykin. This request was granted by Judge Verdin.

In November 2023, Mr. Player informed me of a settlement offer from the defendants amounting to \$25,000, proposing a questionable method of billing and reimbursement that raised concerns of potential unethical practices. A subsequent offer in December for \$10,000 to forego the appeal was presented with a similar disbursement arrangement. Mr. Player expressed a disinterest in pursuing the appeal, citing personal grievances with the judicial system and indicating a reluctance to work without upfront payment.

Despite our decision to proceed with the appeal, Mr. Player subsequently filed a motion to be relieved as counsel, contradicting the direction towards appellate court he initially advocated for. This action came without prior notice or discussion of the case's current status or the appeals process.

Efforts to obtain our legal file from Mr. Player were met with delays and incomplete documentation, further complicating our case's continuity. Mr. Player's conditional offer to write the initial briefs for the appeal, contingent upon signing a consent to relieve him as counsel, presents a perplexing and unreasonable requirement, given his own motion to withdraw.

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The handling of our case by Mr. Player, from communication failures to questionable legal strategies and lack of transparency, has left us in a precarious position. We seek a thorough investigation into these matters and appropriate measures to address the deficiencies and professional conduct of Mr. Player.

Sincerely,

Tonia Rankin