

June 12, 2024

Chief Judge H. Bruce Williams
South Carolina Court of Appeals
1220 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Chief Magistrate W. Mattison Gamble
Sumter County Summary Court
190 E. Canal St
Sumter, S.C. 29150

Clerk of Court of Appeals
South Carolina Court of Appeals
1220 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Chief Judge Williams, Chief Magistrate Gamble, and Clerk of Court of Appeals,

I am writing to you directly, pro se, regarding the ongoing matter of Freeman v. Trapp 2024-000283, and the related proceedings at the Sumter County Summary Court, Case No.: 2023-CV-4310101594, within the jurisdiction of the State of South Carolina. This letter aims to address the significant challenges I have faced in attempting to comply with a court-ordered bond payment, which have broader implications for the integrity of our judicial system.

On June 12, 2024 10:46hrs, I attempted to make a bond payment as per the court's order at the Sumter County Summary Court. However, the clerk refused to accept the payment, citing alleged ex parte communications with the respondent's attorney, Mr. J. Benjamin Cahill. This refusal and the reasons provided are deeply troubling, as they not only obstruct my ability to comply with judicial orders but also raise questions about the impartiality and fairness of the judicial process.

It was only after I presented the signed and filed order copy I had on person, which was reviewed and verified by Chief Magistrate Gamble, that my bond payment was finally accepted at 11:06hrs. However, the clerk also stated that the Magistrate had been in contact with the respondent's attorney, indicating another instance of ex parte communication.

In light of these events, I wish to cite the case law "*In re Love, 390 S.C. 310, 701 S.E.2d 837 (2010)*", which addresses the issue of ex parte communications by a magistrate judge. This case underscores the seriousness with which the South Carolina judiciary views ex parte communications and their potential to compromise the fairness and integrity of the judicial process.

Furthermore, I must bring to your attention that the letter mailed by the respondent, David Bryan Trapp, on June 10th, 2024, was not properly served in accordance with Rule 54 - Service, as amended through February 14, 2024, of the South Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure. This rule mandates that any document, pleading, motion, brief, memorandum, or other paper filed

with the Court must be served upon all parties to the proceeding. The failure to comply with this rule not only compromises the fairness and transparency of the appellate proceedings but also directly contravenes the mandates of the South Carolina Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Given these circumstances, I respectfully request the court to:

1. Ensure the acceptance of all future bond payment without further undue delay or obstruction.
2. Order the preservation and review of camera footage from the Sumter County Summary Court on June 12, 2024, as evidence of the alleged ex-parte communications and procedural irregularities.
3. Consider the implications of these actions on the fairness and integrity of the judicial process, taking appropriate measures to address any ethical violations.
4. Hold the respondent, David Bryan Trapp, and his counsel accountable for violating Rule 54 - Service.

The relevant case details are as follows:

- Summary Court Case No.: 2023-CV-4310101594
- Appellate Case #: Freeman v. Trapp 2024-000283

Your prompt attention to this matter is not only crucial for the resolution of my case but also for the preservation of trust and integrity within the South Carolina judicial system.

Sincerely,



Randal K. Freeman
Appellant

PROOF OF SERVICE

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM SUMTER COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

R. Ferrell Cothran, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Appellant Case No. 2024-000283

Randal K. Freeman

Appellant,

v.

David Bryan Trapp,

Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served *Copy of the Correspondence dated 06-12-24*, to David Bryan Trapp by depositing a copy of it in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on June 12, 2024, addressed to his attorney of record, J. Benjamin Cahill, 693 N. Guinard Drive, Sumter, South Carolina 29150.

June 12, 2024

s/ Randal
Freeman
Randal Freeman
8 Warren Ct
Sumter, South Carolina 29150
(224) 407-1660
Appellant