

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM OCONEE COUNTY

Court of Common Pleas

Hon. R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2024-000739

Dorothy Pierce . . . . . Appellant,

V.

Jerry Edwards, Edwards Group Holdings, Inc., Edwards Printing, Richard Hunt McDuff; MJM Law, LLC; Riley Morningstar; The Journal Newspaper; Hal Welch.. . . . Respondents.

MOTION TO ACCEPT LATE FILING

Comes now the Appellant, who respectfully moves this Court for an order granting the Appellant leave to file her Return to Respondent’s Motion to Dismiss outside the filing deadlines promulgated in Rule 240, SCACR. Such Return shall be filed momentarily. Appellant states as follows:

1. The Respondent filed a Motion to Dismiss on May 22, 2024. Therefore, under the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, the Appellant’s return to said motion would have been due within ten (10) days, setting the deadline to file the instant return on June 1, 2024. See Rule 240(e), SCACR. This Court has held the instant appeal in abeyance pending the outcome of the Court’s decision regarding the motion to dismiss. As such, it is the Appellant’s position that, in the interests of justice, the Appellant should be allowed to respond.
2. The appellant is a self-represented litigant and, as such, is not subject to the electronic service provisions that may apply to attorneys within South Carolina. All proper

notifications to a pro se litigant, as per South Carolina Appellate Court procedures, must be effected either in person or by traditional mail service. Service by electronic mail is not an acceptable method of service for pro se litigants who have not consented to such form of service or availed themselves of online filing options.

3. Respondent's attorney claims they sent an email to the court and copied the Appellant on May 22, 2024. This unclear email was first seen by the Appellant in Respondent's reply to the Appellant's motion to dismiss their motion. The email was sent by an unknown person with whom the Appellant had no prior interactions and does not meet the threshold for proper service. The Appellant suspects the email may have been delivered to the Spam folder, as it was the first interaction from Ms. Kimberly K. Cooper. The Appellant did not notice any such email mentioning the electronic service of a motion to dismiss the Appellant's case, especially from someone with whom the Appellant had never done business before.
4. On May 24, 2024, the Appellant received a piece of mail from Kimberly K. Cooper, a paralegal employed by the attorney representing the Respondents. This correspondence mistakenly included an order denying a motion for continuance issued in a separate legal matter concerning the Respondents' attorney's clients—an order entirely unrelated to the Appellant's case. The Appellant had no previous interactions with Ms. Cooper, whose employer was newly appointed to the Respondents' legal team on or about April 19, 2024. This document was the second and final one received from the Respondents, with the initial document being an order approving a change of counsel. Due to the nature of the document, which did not pertain to her and originated from an unknown individual within the context of Appellant's legal matters, the Appellant chose not to take any action in response. **[See the attached wrong document]**
5. Significantly, the Respondents have failed to serve the Appellant with the pivotal documents in her own appeal process, specifically neglecting to provide the Appellant with a copy of the Motion to Dismiss her Appeal, as well as the draft and the final order following the Motion for Summary Judgment. This oversight constitutes a failure in the service process essential for advancing the proceedings and respecting the Appellant's right to due process.

6. Most importantly, the Appellant experienced exigent circumstances both personally and professionally during the time in which the return was due to be filed. The Appellant was granted protection from all court appearances and filings in the lower courts due to factors beyond the Appellant's control. The Appellant could not track unannounced emails from unknown parties who joined the Respondent's case without any proper introduction to the Appellant. **[See the attached order of Protection]**
7. The Appellant only discovered the motion to dismiss her appeal on May 31, 2024, when the court sent a notice holding the case in abeyance.

WHEREFORE, in consideration of the facts set forth above, the Appellant hereby respectfully moves this Court for an order granting the Appellant leave to file the return to the Respondent's motion to dismiss outside the filing deadlines.

I SO MOVE!

Respectfully Submitted, this June 18, 2024.

By 

Dorothy Pierce

750 Mourning Dove Ln. Seneca, South Carolina 29678

(864) 324-3247

dorothypierce84@gmail.com

FOR THE APPELLANT

18th June 2024

Seneca, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF OCONEE )  
 )  
In re: )  
 )  
DOROTHY PIERCE )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

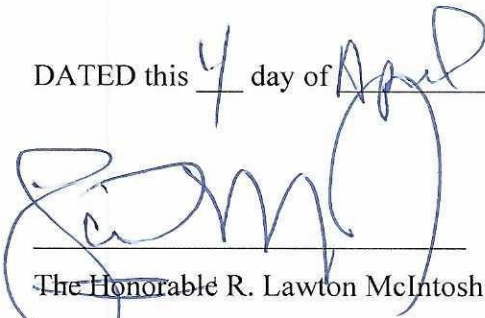
**ORDER OF PROTECTION**

UPON REVIEW of the filed Request for Protection from Court Appearances by Dorothy Pierce, Pro Se, requesting rescheduling of all case appearances for the months of April and May 2024 due to exigent personal circumstances,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Dorothy Pierce shall be excused from appearing in any matters before this Court in the cases listed in her motion for the specified months of April and May 2024.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED this 4 day of April, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honorable R. Lawton McIntosh  
Presiding Judge, Oconee County Circuit Court

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA            )     IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
   )     TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
 COUNTY OF OCONEE                    )  
   )  
 In re:                                        )  
   )  
 DOROTHY PIERCE                        )  
 \_\_\_\_\_                                  )

**REQUEST FOR PROTECTION FROM COURT APPEARANCES**

Dorothy Pierce herein after "Movant," respectfully requests Protection from Court Appearance for all cases involving the Movant scheduled or yet to be scheduled before this Honorable Court in the months of April and May 2024. This Motion is grounded on dire personal circumstances that are understood to be of life-and-death significance, which will render the Movant indisposed and unable to attend or Prepare for Court Appearance during the aforementioned timeframe.

These circumstances involve matters of grave and urgent personal concern, the specifics of which are of a sensitive nature. The Movant assures the Court that this request is not made lightly and is invoked only due to the severity of these extenuating events. A detailed explanation can be provided on camera if requested by the Court.

The Movant is currently involved in the following cases before this Honorable Court:

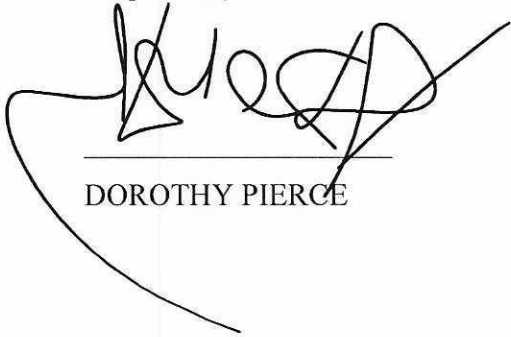
1. 2022-CP-3700108
2. 2022-CP-3700182
3. 2023-CP-3700232
4. 2023-CP-37-00548
5. 2024-CP-3700155
6. 2023-CP-3700685

I respectfully request the Court to:

1. Grant continuance for my court appearances in April and May of 2024.
2. Reschedule my court appearances detailed above for after May 2024.

Dated this April 4, 2024

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy Pierce', is written over a horizontal line. A long, sweeping underline extends from the left side of the signature across the page.

DOROTHY PIERCE

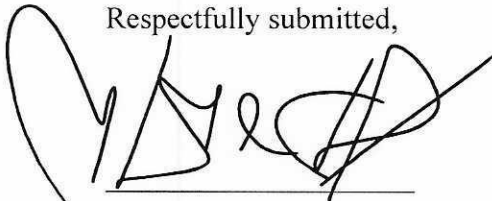
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on April 4, 2024, I served true and correct copy of Request for Protection on the following counsel of record, electronically properly addressed, to the following:

1. Chad R. Bowman, Esq. and Maxwell S. Mishkin, Esq. – [2022-CP-37-00182]
2. Dakota Knehans, Esq. and Kenan G. Loomis – [2022-CP-37-00182]
3. Christopher B. Major- [2023-CP-37-00232]
4. Law office of Keith G. Denny-[2023-CP-37-00548]
5. Scott Giblin Esq- [2022-CP-37-00108]
6. Richard Hunt McDuff- [2024-CP-3700155 and 2023-CP-3700685]
7. Donna Moore- Pro se- [2024-CP-3700155 and 2023-CP-3700685]
8. Howard E. Sutter III-[2022-CP-37-00108]

Dated this April 4, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



DOROTHY PIERCE

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
**In The Court of Appeals**

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APPEAL FROM OCONEE COUNTY  
Court of Common Pleas

Hon. R. Lawton McIntosh, Circuit Court Judge

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Appellate Case No. 2024-000739

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Dorothy Pierce ..... Appellant,

V.

Jerry Edwards, Edwards Group Holdings, Inc., Edwards Printing,  
Richard Hunt McDuff; MJM Law, LLC; Riley Morningstar;  
The Journal Newspaper; Hal Welch ..... Respondents.

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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

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I Dorothy Pierce, do hereby certify that I have served the **Motion To Accept Late Filing** in the above captioned appeal upon opposing counsel by depositing such in the U.S. mail with proper postage affixed thereto, addressed to counsel's last known address. A curtesy copy has been provided electronically via email addressed to counsel's email address as indicated by the AIS.

18th June, 2024  
Seneca, South Carolina

*s/ Dorothy Pierce* \_\_\_\_\_  
Dorothy Pierce  
750 Mourning Dove Ln.  
Seneca, South Carolina 29678  
(864) 324-3247  
[dorothypierce84@gmail.com](mailto:dorothypierce84@gmail.com)  
FOR THE APPELLANT

**Other Counsel of Record:**

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**Kimberly K. Cooper**  
Senior Paralegal  
Direct Phone 704-348-3477  
kcooper@cozen.com

May 14, 2024

**RECEIVED**

**Jun 18 2024**

**SC Court of Appeals**

Scott and Sonia Pape  
13922 Clarendon Pointe Court  
Huntersville, NC 28078

**Re: Scott Pape and Sonia Pape v. Terrance Colen and Martin Williams**  
**Mecklenburg County – 24CVS009345-590**  
**Cozen O'Connor File No.: 00604901**

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pape:

Enclosed is the Order denying our Motion to Continue Arbitration regarding the above-referenced matter.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Cooper  
Paralegal

/kc

Enclosure

cc: Matthew C. Dellinger (via email only, matt@dellingerlawfirm.com)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ COURT DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

CASE NUMBER 24-CV-9345-590

SCOTT PAPE and  
SONIA PAPE

JURY YES  NO

PLAINTIFF

VS.

TERRANCE COLEN and  
MARTIN WILLIAMS

DEFENDANT


FILED ORDER GRANTING OR DENYING  
DATE: May 13, 2024 MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE  
TIME: 1:24:58 PM  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
BY: R. Smith

The  Plaintiff's /  Defendant's Motion to Continue in the above captioned case is hereby

**Granted** - The Arbitration scheduled for hearing on May 16, 2024 (court event) will be rescheduled for hearing on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Denied** - The matter will be heard on the date and time presently calendared.

5/13/2024 10:38:45 AM Attention: The Party or Attorney who submitted the motion for consideration must also timely copy the opposing party/attorney of the ruling.

  
Presiding Judge/TCA

5/13/2024  
Date