

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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**REQUEST TO FILE AMENDED NOTICE OF APPEAL**

Dorothy Pierce, Appellant, hereby files this request to amend her previously filed Notice of Appeal dated March 29, 2024, to include the final order on Respondents Richard Hunt McDuff and MJM Law, LLC's Motion for Summary Judgment dated April 2, 2024. This request is based on the following facts and evidence.

1. On March 14, 2024, the circuit court held a hearing for the defendant’s motion for summary judgment despite the Appellant’s pending appeals.
2. On March 20, 2024, the Circuit Court of Oconee County granted the Attorney Respondents' Motion for Summary Judgment and directed them to draft a formal order.
3. The Respondents prepared this 10-page draft order by March 26, 2024, but intentionally failed to serve it to the Appellant, violating South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure

5(B)(3), which mandate that all draft orders be shared with all parties for review. Instead, the Respondents provided the order directly to the court for signature without the Appellant's knowledge.

4. The Appellant filed a timely Notice of Appeal on March 29, 2024, in response to the Form 4 ruling entered by the Oconee County Court of Common Pleas on March 20, 2024. Form 4 directed the preparation of a formal order by the Attorney Respondents' counsel and contained a Statement of Judgment indicating the grant of the Respondents Richard Hunt McDuff and MJM Law, LLC's Motion for Summary Judgment.
5. The Appellant learned that a final order was drafted by the Respondents, filed with the court without sending the Appellant a draft order for review, and signed by the court through the Respondents' filings in the Court of Appeals.
6. On July 10, 2024, the Appellant contacted the Circuit Court for a copy of the purported order. According to the order that the Appellant received from the Oconee County Circuit Court Clerk, certified on July 10, 2024, the final order was entered on April 2, 2024, by the Circuit Court granting the Motion for Summary Judgment. [See the attached Exhibit]
7. The Appellant received the order from the 10th Circuit Court Clerk in the mail on July 13, 2024.
8. The Appellant asserts she was not served with this final order and did not receive any copy from the Respondents or the court. The Respondents have admitted directly and indirectly to not providing both a draft copy and the final order to the Appellant, after failing to prove at any point, whether via email or mail, that they served the Plaintiff a copy of the draft order. This failure constitutes a significant violation of procedural due process under Rule 5 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, which mandates that all draft orders be served on all parties for review prior to submission to the judge.
9. Under South Carolina law, the deadline to file a Notice of Appeal commences upon receipt of the final order. Consequently, the Appellant maintains that the requisite service to start the appeals deadline clock has not occurred.
10. The Appellant hereby files this request to amend her appeal to include the final order dated April 2, 2024.
- 11. A copy of the Amended Notice of Appeal is herein attached for consideration. [See the attached copy of Amended Notice of Appeal]**

Respectfully Submitted this July 19, 2024



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DOROTHY PIERCE, Pro se Appellant

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
 )  
COUNTY OF OCONEE ) TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

DOROTHY PIERCE, ) Case No.: 2022-CP-3700182  
Plaintiff, )

v. ) **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

JERRY EDWARDS; EDWARDS GROUP )  
HOLDINGS; EDWARDS PRINTING; )  
RICHARD HUNT MCDUFF; MJM LAW, )  
LLC; RILEY MORNINGSTAR; THE )  
JOURNAL NEWSPAPER; AND HAL )  
WELCH, )  
Respondents. )

**RECEIVED**  
**Jul 19 2024**  
**SC Court of Appeals**

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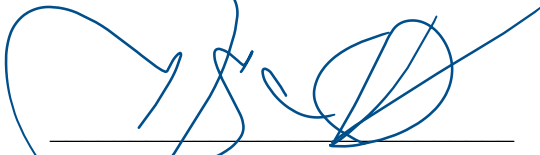
I Dorothy Pierce, do hereby certify that on this July 19, 2024, I have served Request to file Amended Notice of Appeal in the above captioned appeal upon opposing counsel by depositing such in the U.S. mail with proper postage affixed thereto, addressed to counsel's last known address.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dorothy Pierce', written over a horizontal line.

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