

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO GREENVILLE COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas
The Honorable D. Garrison Hill, Trial Judge
The Honorable Alex Kinlaw, Jr., Post-Conviction Relief Judge

Appellate Case No. 2019-000907

JERALD D. GASKINS, JR.,

PETITIONER,

v.

THE STATE

RESPONDENT.

**RETURN IN OPPOSITION TO
MOTION FOR APPEAL BOND**

The State, through its undersigned counsel, would respectfully show this Court the following:

I.

On February 5, 2025, this Court affirmed in part and reversed in part the PCR Court’s denial of Petitioner’s application for post-conviction relief. This Court found that Petitioner suffered prejudice from trial counsel’s deficient performance and remanded for a new trial. That same day, Petitioner filed a Motion for Bond Pending Appeal requesting that this Court set a reasonable bond pending the final ruling of the appellate courts.

II.

Petitioner's SCDC records indicate the "current offenses" he is serving time for are two counts of lewd act on a child under 16 and two counts of 2nd degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. Petitioner is currently serving an aggregate sentence of 20 years following his convictions.

III.

During its April of 2013 term, the Greenville County Grand Jury indicted Petitioner for four counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and two counts of committing a lewd act upon a child. Following a jury trial, Petitioner was convicted as indicted and sentenced to imprisonment for twenty (20) years for each count of 2nd degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, fifteen (15) years for one of the counts of committing a lewd act, and five (5) years for the remaining count of committing a lewd act. The five (5) year sentence was ordered to be served consecutively to the others, and to be served first; the other sentences are all to be served concurrently. Petitioner subsequently appealed.

On April 19, 2017, Petitioner's convictions and sentences were affirmed in an unpublished *per curiam* opinion. *State v. Gaskins*, Op. No, 2017-UP-166 (S.C. Ct. App. filed April 19, 2017). On September 14, 2017, Petitioner initiated a post-conviction relief action challenging his convictions. Following an evidentiary hearing on October 24, 2018, the PCR Court denied relief and subsequently denied Petitioner's motion to alter or amend the judgment. Petitioner then initiated an appeal of the denial of his application. Upon review, this Court granted Petitioner a new trial.

IV.

Pursuant to South Carolina’s appellate court rules, a post-conviction relief applicant “may” be admitted to bail during the pendency of an appeal of a trial court order by either the applicant or the State. Rule 243(k), SCACR. Importantly though, an applicant has no right to an appeal bond, and a court will only issue one in an “exceptional” case. *See id.* (“The authority to grant bail will be exercised with caution and only in exceptional cases.”); *Nichols v. Patterson*, 202 S.C. 352, ___, 25 S.E.2d 155, 156 (1943) (instructing the allowance of bail after a conviction is *not* a matter of right).

In cases which an applicant was originally sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding ten years, South Carolina’s appellate courts alone have discretion to decide whether an appeal bond should be issued. Rule 243(k), SCACR. When deciding whether to exercise that discretion, an appellate court should consider the following factors: (1) the probability of success on appeal; (2) the nature of the relief the applicant will receive if successful in his or her case; (3) the seriousness of the criminal offense committed; (4) the danger the applicant may pose to the community if he or she is released; (5) the likelihood the applicant may flee if released; and (6) the character and circumstances of the applicant. *Id.*

V.

Respondent submits that in a factor analysis, the weight against bond is heavy. Respondent intends to petition this Court to rehear this matter and reconsider its grant of relief. *See* Rule 221(a), SCACR (“Petitions for rehearing must be actually received by the appellate court no later than fifteen (15) days after the filing of the opinion, order, judgment, or decree of the court.”).

As to factor one, Respondent notes that the Circuit Court found Petitioner is not entitled to relief upon consideration of the record and testimony presented. Respondent submits that the

Circuit Court made reasonable conclusions finding that trial counsel objected to the relevant issues, giving credence to trial counsel's testimony as to strategy, and appropriately refrained from making conclusions on conjecture and hindsight. Respondent submits based on the record and ruling, and a lack of prejudice, there is a justified probability that further appellate review may result in affirming the denial of relief.

As to factors two and five, Petitioner will receive a new trial if successful, and upon consideration of the circumstances of Petitioner's case, and the unease of his presence within the community, the likelihood of flight is not without concern. At trial, the victim was 17, a high school senior. Now, the victim is in her late twenties and likely able to more articulately testify as to Petitioner's crimes. Further, according to the trial transcript, Petitioner has previously fled the State while in the midst of conflict with his ex-wife. Petitioner has not represented that he has strong familial ties to the community and upon a potential impending trial, Petitioner has an incentive to flee.

As to factor three, our legislature has demonstrated a strong preference for an appeal bond *not* to be granted in a case in which a convicted offender has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding ten years. *See* S.C. Code Ann. § 18-1-90 ("Bail may be allowed to the defendant in all cases in which the appeal is from the trial, conviction, or sentence for a criminal offense. However, bail is not allowed when the defendant has been sentenced to death, life imprisonment, or imprisonment for more than ten years."); *see also State v. Whitener*, 225 S.C. 244, 248, 81 S.E.2d 784, 786 (1954) (concluding—in a divided opinion—the Supreme Court could "grant bail, in its discretion, where the sentence exceeds ten years" despite the existence of a statutory provision prohibiting a grant of bail under such circumstances). Petitioner is serving a 20-year sentence for his crimes and our legislature has deemed Petitioner's crimes "violent" and

“most serious.” See S.C. Code Ann. § 16-1-60 (identifying criminal sexual conduct with minors, first, second, and third degree as “violent” offenses); S.C. Code Ann. § 17-25-45(C)(1) (classifying criminal sexual conduct with minors as a “most serious” offense). As such, the seriousness of Petitioner’s crimes favor a denial of bond.

VI.

As to factors four and six, Petitioner contends that his lack of criminal convictions in Greenville County, and his abidance of bond conditions while his criminal case was pending support his motion for an appeal bond. However, Petitioner does have a criminal history - his convictions are adjudicated in the City of Traveler’s Rest. Petitioner pled guilty to domestic violence – 1st offense on June 3, 2004¹; to violating a court order of protection on February 11, 2013²; and to assault and battery 3rd degree on November 15, 2013³. See Public Index - Attachment 1. Notably, the protection order Petitioner violated was initiated by his ex-wife, now Rachel Waldrop. Consideration must be given to the Petitioner’s disregard of a court order, particularly in regard to Ms. Waldrop.

Ms. Waldrop successfully petitioned to terminate Petitioner’s parental rights to their two shared children, which Petitioner contested – while he was incarcerated. See *Waldrop v. Gaskins*, No. 2020-000368 (S.C. Ct. App. Feb. 5, 2021). Petitioner has a history, as identified by Ms. Waldrop, of habitually stalking and intimidating his ex-wife particularly while in the midst of their

¹<https://www2.greenvillecounty.org/SCJD/PublicIndex/CaseDetails.aspx?County=23&CourtAgency=23201&CaseNum=I545062&CaseType=C&HKey=74831131188976871038150748748661221131011036784651041086789904799891131221058166838156738947556889>

²<https://www2.greenvillecounty.org/SCJD/PublicIndex/CaseDetails.aspx?County=23&CourtAgency=23201&CaseNum=2012A2320100089&CaseType=C&HKey=7311484113841197211511954103437490110116471047057889910510012174105651077010647575585113701178478698552>

³<https://www2.greenvillecounty.org/SCJD/PublicIndex/CaseDetails.aspx?County=23&CourtAgency=23201&CaseNum=2013A2320100240&CaseType=C&HKey=4973836676541191111034355438312011811710884571145468101113831107251119121531081097943901148289120704989>

divorce and child custody battle. According to the trial transcript, Petitioner's defense theorized that Ms. Waldrop's testimony was unreliable because her and Petitioner were going through a contentious divorce, and she wanted sole custody of their children. It follows that Petitioner has an interest in influencing Ms. Waldrop's testimony considering that a new trial is the nature of the relief if successful.

Petitioner's reference to his lack of disciplinary actions while incarcerated has no value considering Petitioner appears to commit crimes against minors and women, using deceit and manipulation. While disciplinary actions and crimes committed while incarcerated are indicative of behavior upon release, the lack of infractions is not a reliable indicator as to Petitioner's behavior if released on bond with conditions.

It is not without concern that Petitioner will return to a community of which he is familiar with and have the opportunity to commit crimes of the same nature. Of particular concern is that the victim was a young teenager over the course of the abuse and according to trial testimony, Petitioner was able to gain access to her through befriending the victim's parents. In light thereof, Respondent asserts that Petitioner poses a danger to the community if released (and does not flee), particularly because Petitioner has a history of failing to abide by court orders.

In support of the denial of Petitioner's request for an appeal bond, the victim, the victim's mother, Petitioner's ex-wife – Ms. Waldrop, and Ms. Waldrop's daughter have requested their statements be presented to this Court for consideration. (Attachment 2). They strongly support the denial of bond.

VII.

For all the foregoing reasons, the collective circumstances of Petitioner's case—when properly considered—do not warrant the extraordinary relief of a grant of an appeal bond.

Therefore, this Court should exercise the extreme caution warranted by the circumstances, deny Petitioner's motion for an appeal bond, and decline to grant release from custody to an offender who was convicted of multiple offenses our legislature has deemed "violent" and "most serious." *See* S.C. Code Ann. § 16-1-60 (identifying criminal sexual conduct with minors, first, second, and third degree as "violent" offenses); S.C. Code Ann. § 17-25-45(C)(1) (classifying criminal sexual conduct with minors as a "most serious" offense).

Respondent maintains bond should be denied. If this Court should allow bond, however, the State advocates for the strongest restrictions. Respondent would ask this Court to order Petitioner to remain on home detention pursuant to the county home detention program during the pendency of the State's appeal, require Petitioner to submit to electronic monitoring at his own expense, preclude Petitioner from changing his address without prior court approval, direct Petitioner to surrender any passport he may have to the Greenville County Clerk of Court, and mandate Petitioner to refrain from applying for any new passports until his case is finally resolved.

WHEREFORE, the State prays this Court will deny Petitioner's Motion for Appeal Bond; and grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

[Signature Page to Follow]

Respectfully submitted,

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General

DON ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General

MELODY J. BROWN
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

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ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

February 18, 2025
Columbia, South Carolina

ATTACHMENT 1
PRIOR CONVICTIONS IN GREENVILLE COUNTY



Greenville County 13th Judicial Circuit Public Index



[Greenville County Home Page](#) [South Carolina Judicial Department Home Page](#)

The State of South Carolina vs. Jerald Denton Gaskins Jr					
Case Number:	I545062	Court Agency:	City Of Travelers Rest	Filed Date:	03/25/2004
Case Type:	Criminal	Case Sub Type:			
Status:	Disposed	Assigned Judge:	Burnette, Shirley Landreth	Disposition Judge:	Burnette, Shirley Landreth
Disposition:	Pled Guilty				
Disposition Date:	06/03/2004	Date Received:		Arrest Date:	
Law Enf. Case:	TR06041719	True Bill Date:		No Bill Date:	
Prosecutor Case:		Indictment Number:		Waiver Date:	
Probation Case:					

Case Parties Charges Sentencing Associated Cases Actions Financials Bonds			
Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date
Gaskins, Jerald Denton Jr	2671-Domestic / Criminal Domestic Violence - 1st offense	2671-Domestic / Criminal Domestic Violence - 1st offense	06/03/2004



Greenville County 13th Judicial Circuit Public Index



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The State of South Carolina vs. Jerald Denton Gaskins Jr

Case Number:	2012A2320100089	Court Agency:	City Of Travelers Rest	Filed Date:	10/09/2012
Case Type:	Criminal	Case Sub Type:			
Status:	Disposed	Assigned Judge:	Tate, Phillip	Disposition Judge:	Johnson, Issac Jr
Disposition:	Pled Guilty				
Disposition Date:	02/11/2013	Date Received:		Arrest Date:	
Law Enf. Case:	TR061211157	True Bill Date:		No Bill Date:	
Prosecutor Case:		Indictment Number:		Waiver Date:	
Probation Case:					

Case Parties Charges Sentencing Associated Cases Actions Financials Bonds

Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date
Gaskins, Jerald Denton Jr	3056-Domestic / Violation of court order of protection	3056-Domestic / Violation of court order of protection	02/11/2013



Greenville County 13th Judicial Circuit Public Index



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Switch View

The State of South Carolina vs. Jerald Denton Gaskins Jr

Case Number:	2013A2320100240	Court Agency:	City Of Travelers Rest	Filed Date:	08/15/2013
Case Type:	Criminal	Case Sub Type:			
Status:	Disposed	Assigned Judge:	Tate, Phillip	Disposition Judge:	Tate, Phillip
Disposition:	Pled Guilty				
Disposition Date:	11/15/2013	Date Received:		Arrest Date:	
Law Enf. Case:	TR061310115	True Bill Date:		No Bill Date:	
Prosecutor Case:		Indictment Number:		Waiver Date:	
Probation Case:					

Case Parties Charges Sentencing Associated Cases Actions Financials Bonds

Name	Charge Code - Charge Description	Original Charge Code - Original Charge	Disposition Date
Gaskins, Jerald Denton Jr	3414-Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd degree	3414-Assault / Assault & Battery 3rd degree	11/15/2013

ATTACHMENT 2

AFFIDAVIT OF TAMMY WOODLE – VICTIM ADVOCATE

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

Jerald D. Gaskins, Jr.,)	
)	Appellate Case No.: 2019-000907
)	
Petitioner,)	
v.)	
)	
)	AFFIDAVIT OF TAMMY WOODLE
State of South Carolina,)	
)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
)	
)	
)	

Personally appeared before me the above stated affiant who makes the following sworn statement:

1. I, Tammy Woodle, am a Victim Advocacy Coordinator at the South Carolina Attorney General’s Office – Victim Advocacy Division. I am the designated victim advocate in the matter of *Jerald D. Gaskins, Jr., v. The State of South Carolina*, Appellate Case No. 2019-000907.
2. On February 5, 2025, the South Carolina Court of Appeals remanded Petitioner Gaskins’ case for a new trial on Petitioner’s appeal of the denial of his application for post-conviction relief. That same day, Petitioner also moved for bond pending appeal.
3. On February 5, 2025, I notified Sandra Wackenheim, the victim’s mother, by telephone in regard to this Court’s ruling. Ms. Wackenheim served as the primary contact at the request of the victim.
4. Later that same day, after speaking with Ms. Wackenheim, I notified the victim, Natalie Newkirk, by telephone in regard to this Court’s ruling.

5. On February 6, 2025, I again spoke with Ms. Newkirk, and at her request, also spoke with Petitioner's ex-wife, Rachel Waldrop. I informed Ms. Waldrop and Ms. Newkirk of Petitioner's request for bond pending appeal.
6. On February 10, 2025, I received a statement from Sandra Wackenheim, provided to me in a PDF document attached to the email, which is attached to this affidavit.
7. On February 11, 2024, I received a statement from Natalie Newkirk via email which reads as follows¹:

February 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the release of Jerald D. Gaskins Jr. from incarceration. I have serious concerns about his manipulative and dangerous behavior, not only toward me but also toward my family, as well as other women and girls.

During the time that I have known Jerald D. Gaskins Jr., he has consistently demonstrated a pattern of controlling, deceitful, and harmful actions. He has manipulated situations to his advantage, using intimidation and emotional abuse to exert power over others. This behavior has caused lasting emotional distress, not only to me but to others who have come into contact with him.

Furthermore, Jerald D. Gaskins Jr.'s past actions suggest a clear and present risk to the safety and well-being of others. His behavior has escalated over time, and I fear that if he is released, he will continue to pose a serious threat. This is not only a concern for my personal safety but for that of other women, girls, and families in the community.

Based on his history of dangerous behavior and the emotional toll he has already caused; I believe that releasing him would be a grave mistake. I urge you to take into account the potential harm he could inflict on others, especially those who are vulnerable. For the sake of safety and justice, I respectfully request that Jerald D. Gaskins Jr. remain incarcerated.

¹ For the purposes of omitting email addresses, the statement is copied verbatim from the email received by Ms. Newkirk.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will consider the serious concerns I have raised in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Natalie M. Newkirk

8. On February 11, 2025, I received a statement from Rachel Waldrop via email which reads as follows²:

To Whom It May Concern:

I met Jerald Gaskins when I was only 17-years-old. He convinced me that he loved me and that for us to be together, I had to move out of my parents' home because there was no way they would let me date a 26-year-old. After living with him for 5 months, he convinced me to marry him, so we were married February 12, 2009; only two days after my 18th birthday.

Our entire marriage was nothing but abusive. It was mostly emotional, mental, sexual and withholding food (when I "needed to be punished"). The worst mental abusive tactic was when I miscarried our first child. He wouldn't even take me to the hospital, he made his sister take me. She didn't stay with me, she just dropped me off per his request. He never showed up to the hospital and he told me I better not call my mother or he'd "make my life hell", so I had to go through it completely by myself. Years later, I found out that he was having an affair with one of our friend's girlfriends at the time I was in the hospital.

Physically, he strangled me twice and luckily his brother saved me before it was too late. I was so terrified of him and he isolated me to the point that I felt so alone and couldn't leave. He wouldn't even let me have a phone in order to leave or call the police. He even threatened to kill anyone who helped me leave him. I remember one time, he said if I called my dad to get me that he would kill my little sister and make me watch the light leave her eyes. Many times after I had the miscarriage, he would force himself on me. I apologize for the graphic nature of what I'm about to say, but you need to understand what kind of person he is. About a month after the miscarriage, he was angry with me because I wasn't ready to be intimate again yet. So, he took me to a deserted road, told me to get out of the car, walked me to a tree and

² For the purposes of omitting email addresses, the statement is copied verbatim from the email received from Ms. Waldrop.

told me to " drop my pants". I refused and started crying and told him I wasn't ready. He said that was okay because he was "going for the other hole". When I still fought him and refused, he pulled a gun out and put it to my head and told me to turn around. He then proceeded to sodomize me against my will with the gun still on the back of my head. I was crying and felt helpless and dirty. He told me this wasn't rape because I was his wife and therefore his property. When he was done, he laughed and said I got blood all over him and that when we got home, I was to shower immediately because I was disgusting. This situation wasn't the last time he forced himself on me at gunpoint. It was just the most traumatic. When I finally left for good in 2012, I spent 18 months at the Julie Valentine Center getting therapy because of this incident and many others. I am still in therapy to this day. (I go bi-weekly for one hour at iTrust Wellness).

I was too scared to tell anyone what was happening and absolutely terrified to leave him. When our daughter was born (2010), he used her as a way to scare me and punish me. He said he would take her and I'd never see her again. In 2011, when I finally did have the courage to leave and go home to my parents, he made a false police report saying that I'd attacked him and they charged me with a CDV. At that time, he did what he threatened me with. He took Skylan somewhere and I didn't know where she was or if she was okay. So, when I got out of jail, I ended up going back to him because I missed my daughter and I didn't know if he'd hurt her like he hurt me.

In 2012, I had the courage to leave him for good. The day I left, he had his father pick Skylan up so I couldn't take her with me (I was walking down the road because I didn't have a phone to call anyone). He kept her away from me and wouldn't let me see/talk to her at all or tell me if she was okay. I didn't see her again until DSS took her at our court hearing because they felt she was in danger being with him and she couldn't go with me because he accused me of being on drugs. She was placed with my cousin for 6 months while I had to go to Victim's classes at Compass of Carolina and I got her back in November of 2012. He was not granted visitation or anything because he didn't do the classes or anything else they told him to do.

Once I had her back, he threatened me daily and stalked me. I was in school at the time at Greenville Technical College and my parents would babysit Skylan for me. He would have people follow me to see if I had her with me. I didn't even feel comfortable letting her leave the house. So, we stayed home 24/7

except when I would leave to go to school, but she stayed home. I was always scared of being out and about because I didn't know if the day would come when he would actually kill me. I was terrified he'd cause a wreck or come kill me when I was leaving class or something. I was so scared in fact, that I had the school's security officers escort me to and from classes.

Per DSS, we both had to have psyche evaluations. He found out when my appointment was because the secretary told him when she wasn't supposed to. When I arrived at the library for my appointment, he was there waiting on me despite me having a restraining order against him. He tried to talk to me and chased me outside to my car. I called the police and filed a report, but they couldn't find him in the parking lot or the library. When they left, I tried to go back inside for my appointment because I thought he was gone. Unfortunately, he wasn't. He'd gone and changed his shirt and hat and was waiting on me when I went inside. I called the police again and they got the security footage from the library to prove it. They then filed more charges against him for breaking the restraining order.

Even after the charges for the criminal sexual conduct were filed, he still stalked and threatened me. I had an evening job at Publix, and he would wait in the parking lot and just watch me and yell things at me. One day, he called me at work and threatened me over the phone. When he came there later that day, I called the police again because I still had the restraining order. He left before they got there, so they didn't file charges again because I couldn't prove he'd been there (besides the witness testimonies but they couldn't verify who he was because they didn't know him).

He would also make fake Facebook accounts to try to stalk me and talk to me. When that didn't work, he'd have his friends send me threatening messages for him. He even messaged my aunt once and told her to have me call him "or else" (he didn't specify what would happen if I didn't).

By this time, I was so scared of him and what he would do that I stopped leaving my house except for school, and my dad would take me to and from school to make sure I was safe. I didn't go to the store, or restaurants or anywhere else. I even stopped going to church because he knew where the church was and I was scared he would show up there too. I didn't even go to my family's house for Christmas, Thanksgiving, or anything until he was in prison.

When he was finally in prison, I finally felt safe enough to leave the house. And I felt safe enough to take the kids out in public because he could no longer stalk me or hurt me or my family.

Please don't let him out on bond. The first place he will come is my house because he knows where we live. He found out from the adoption papers that were filed when my husband adopted Skyland and Mathew. He will never leave me alone. I still get letters in the mail with covert threats despite having the restraining order we have from the adoption. In addition to what he would do to me, my children are scared of him. They don't know the details of what he's done to me, but they know he hurt me and many other young girls.

He will never stop hurting and preying on young girls. He once told me that it's easier to control them and "mold them to do whatever he wants them to do" when they're young and naive. He also likes that they're easier to scare. He told me that the problem with me was that he "got me when I was too old" (because I was 17). The entire marriage, he preyed on young girls. I never had proof, just suspicions. But he surrounded himself with young girls of all ages, none older than 16. He would even bring them to our house (telling their parents that they were hanging out with me) and tell me to deal with it and said there was nothing I could do to change it. I had no way to protect those girls and I've never forgiven myself for it.

If he's let out on bond, I guarantee there will be many more girls in the same situation. I wasn't the first, and definitely wasn't the last.

I'm begging you, please protect these girls that would be his future potential victims. They deserve to not feel how me and who knows how many other girls feel.

Thank you for reading this, and again I apologize for the graphic details.

-Rachel Leanne Waldrop
(formerly Rachel Gaskins)

9. On February 11, 2025, I received an email from Rachel Waldrop relaying a statement written by Skylar Waldrop, her and Petitioner's shared daughter, which reads as follows³:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am scared about Psycho (that's what she calls Jerald Gaskins Jr.) getting out of prison because I am afraid that the first thing he is gonna do is come find me and try to get me to believe him and go with him just so that he can hurt me and do the same things he did to my mom to me. I don't ever wanna move out of my house where I am away from my mom and dad because I don't wanna be alone if he does find me and tries to hurt me. I started feeling this way after the talk they had with me and my brother about him and I would get these nightmares all the time telling me he is gonna come looking for me and do bad things to me and it made me scared and not want to move out or go anywhere alone when I become an adult. When I was little (I don't remember how old) I remember when I would be in a different room and my mom was with him in another room, and she was screaming and crying and it sounded like he was hurting her. All I remember is her yelling and screaming and crying and begging him to not do whatever he was gonna do to her. I still get the same dreams telling me that the same thing is gonna happen to me and I don't want that to happen. I don't want him to get out of jail and end up coming to hurt me or any of my siblings. I think I was scared of men when I was little because of the way Psycho treated my mom and all the yelling and crying, but when my mom met my dad and introduced me to him, I remember that I immediately knew he was a good person and that he made my mom feel happy and safe and I wanted him to be with us and take care of us. I don't really know how to explain what I felt but I remember that I felt safe around my dad.

I just want Psycho to stay in jail where he cannot hurt me, my mom, my siblings, or anyone else because he scares me in general. I already know that if I meet him (I don't want to) I will automatically feel scared and uncomfortable and shaky and on the verge of tears.

Thank you for reading this,

Skylan Waldrop

³ For the purposes of omitting email addresses, the statement is copied verbatim from the email received from Ms. Waldrop.

10. I affirm that none of these statements have been modified or edited and have been relayed to me in my capacity as a victim's advocate as represented in this affidavit.

THE AFFIANT FURTHER SAYETH NOT.

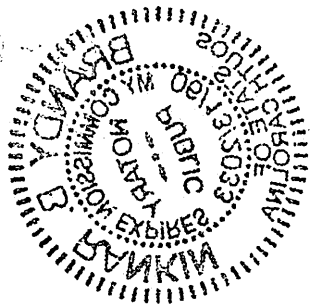
Tammy Woodle
Tammy Woodle

SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 18th
day of February 2025.

Brandy B. Rankin
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

My Commission expires: 6-13-23





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Your Honor,

I am writing this letter to express my unwavering opposition to the release of Jerald Gaskins Jr., who was convicted and sentenced to 25 years for the heinous crime committed against my daughter, Natalie Newkirk. It has only been 10 years since that sentencing, and I cannot begin to express how deeply this crime has affected not only her but our entire family.

The trauma inflicted upon Natalie did not end with the conviction. She continues to struggle daily with the emotional and psychological scars left by this predator's actions. The fear, anxiety, and pain she endures are lifelong consequences—far longer than the time Jerald Gaskins Jr. has served behind bars. We have worked tirelessly to rebuild, yet the possibility of his release threatens to undo the progress we have fought so hard to achieve.

Beyond the personal impact on our family, I firmly believe that granting bond to Jerald Gaskins Jr. would pose a serious threat to public safety. His crime was not just an isolated mistake—it was a deliberate act that shattered an innocent life. The justice system recognized the severity of his actions when it sentenced him to 25 years, and to allow his release now would be a miscarriage of that justice. He has not served even half of his rightful punishment, and his early release would send a dangerous message that such crimes do not carry the full weight of their consequences.

I urge this court to consider the profound and lasting harm caused by Jerald Gaskins Jr. and the continued risk his release would pose. My daughter was given a life sentence of trauma—Jerald Gaskins Jr. should not be granted the privilege of freedom before serving his full sentence. I respectfully ask that you deny his request for bond and uphold the original ruling to ensure that justice is truly served.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Wackint". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed text "Thank you for your time and consideration."

RECEIVED

Feb 18 2025

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO GREENVILLE COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas
The Honorable D. Garrison Hill, Trial Judge
The Honorable Alex Kinlaw, Jr., Post-Conviction Relief Judge

JERALD D. GASKINS, JR.,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2019-000907

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, **Kaylee C. Kemp**, attorney for Respondent, hereby certify that the **Return in Opposition to Motion for Appeal Bond** and attachments have been forwarded to Petitioner's counsel, C. Rauch Wise, Esq., via email today, February 18, 2025, to rauchwise@gmail.com.

I further certify that all parties required by Rule to be served have been served.

This 18TH day of February 2025.

s/ Kaylee C. Kemp
KAYLEE C. KEMP
Assistant Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General
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Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1549
(803) 734-6307
kayleekemp@scag.gov

Kaylee Kemp

From: Kaylee Kemp
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 6:49 PM
To: rauchwise@gmail.com
Cc: Brandy Rankin; Melody Brown
Subject: Gaskins, Jerald - Return in Opposition to Motion for Bond Appeal - February 18, 2025
Attachments: Gaskins, Jerald - Return in Opposition to Motion for Bond Appeal - February 18, 2025.pdf

Good evening –

Attached is the State's Return in Opposition to Motion for Bond Appeal and the attachments. The Proof of Service is included at the end. I will be filing with the Court this evening.

Kind regards,

Kaylee C. Kemp, Assistant Attorney General
South Carolina Attorney General's Office
Capital and Collateral Litigation Section | 803-734-6307
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