



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

JENNY ABBOTT KITCHINGS
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CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 11629
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29211
1220 SENATE STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-1890
FAX: (803) 734-1839
www.sccourts.org

April 02, 2025

Ms. Melinda Inman Butler, Esquire
Butler Law Firm
211 E. Main Street
Union SC 29379

Ms. Stephanie Holmes Burton, Esquire
308 E. St. John St.
Spartanburg SC 29302

Re: Anthony Beasley v. SCDSS
Appellate Case No. 2024-000200

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed is the decision of the Court. The remittitur will be sent as provided by Rule 221(b) of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Harrison, deputy".

CLERK

cc: The Honorable G. D. Morgan, Jr.

**THIS OPINION HAS NO PRECEDENTIAL VALUE. IT SHOULD NOT BE
CITED OR RELIED ON AS PRECEDENT IN ANY PROCEEDING
EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY RULE 268(d)(2), SCACR.**

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

Anthony Beasley, Individually and on behalf of the
minor child, LB born 2014, Appellant,

v.

South Carolina Department of Social Services, South
Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy, Children's
Advocacy Center of Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union
Counties, Inc., Defendants,

Of which South Carolina Department of Social Services
and South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy
are the Respondents.

Appellate Case No. 2024-000200

Appeal From Greenville County
G. D. Morgan, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

Unpublished Opinion No. 2025-UP-118
Submitted March 1, 2025 – Filed April 2, 2025

AFFIRMED

Melinda Inman Butler, of The Butler Law Firm, of
Union, for Appellant.

Stephanie Holmes Burton, of Gibbes Burton, LLC, of
Spartanburg, for Respondents.

PER CURIAM: Anthony Beasley, individually and on behalf of his minor child, LB, appeals the circuit court's order granting in part and denying in part separate motions to dismiss filed by the South Carolina Department of Social Services and South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy (collectively, Respondents). On appeal, Beasley argues the circuit court erred in finding the South Carolina Tort Claims Act (SCTCA) barred both his cause of action for outrage and his claim for punitive damages. We affirm pursuant to Rule 220(b), SCACR.

1. We hold the circuit court did not err in granting Respondents' motions to dismiss Beasley's outrage claim because his claim was barred under the SCTCA. *See Doe v. Marion*, 373 S.C. 390, 395, 645 S.E.2d 245, 247 (2007) ("In reviewing the dismissal of an action pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6), SCRCP, the appellate court applies the same standard of review as the trial court."); *id.* ("In considering a motion to dismiss a complaint based on a failure to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action, the trial court must base its ruling solely on allegations set forth in the complaint."); *id.* ("If the facts alleged and inferences reasonably deducible therefrom, viewed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, would entitle the plaintiff to relief on any theory, then dismissal under Rule 12(b)(6) is improper."); *Madison v. Am. Home Prods. Corp.*, 358 S.C. 449, 451, 595 S.E.2d 493, 494 (2004) ("As a general rule, important questions of novel impression should not be decided on a motion to dismiss."); *id.* ("Where . . . the dispute is not as to the underlying facts but as to the interpretation of the law, and development of the record will not aid in the resolution of the issues, it is proper to decide even novel issues on a motion to dismiss."); S.C. Code Ann. § 15-78-40 (2005) ("The State, an agency, a political subdivision, and a governmental entity are liable for their torts in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances, subject to the limitations upon liability and damages, and exemptions from liability and damages, contained herein."); S.C. Code Ann. § 15-78-50(a) (2005) ("Any person who may suffer a loss proximately caused by a tort of the State, an agency, a political subdivision, or a governmental entity, and its employee acting within the scope of his official duty may file a claim . . ."); S.C. Code Ann. § 15-78-30(f) (2005) ("Loss' . . . does not include the intentional infliction of emotional harm."); *Gore v. Dorchester Cnty. Sheriff's Off.*, 442 S.C. 438, 443, 900 S.E.2d 423, 426 (2024) ("The bar to recovery for the intentional infliction of emotional distress in section 15-78-30(f) applies to the subset of claims for the reckless infliction of emotional distress."); *id.* at 439-40, 900 S.E.2d

at 424 (indicating intentional infliction of emotional distress is "also known as outrage," and "[r]eckless infliction of emotional distress is merely a subset of intentional infliction of emotional distress").

2. We hold the circuit court did not err in granting Respondents' motions to dismiss Beasley's claim for punitive damages because the SCTCA explicitly states that punitive damages are not available under the Act. *See Doe*, 373 S.C. at 395, 645 S.E.2d at 247 ("In reviewing the dismissal of an action pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6), SCRCP, the appellate court applies the same standard of review as the trial court."); *id.* ("In considering a motion to dismiss a complaint based on a failure to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action, the trial court must base its ruling solely on allegations set forth in the complaint."); *id.* ("If the facts alleged and inferences reasonably deducible therefrom, viewed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, would entitle the plaintiff to relief on any theory, then dismissal under Rule 12(b)(6) is improper."); S.C. Code Ann. § 15-78-120(b) (2005) ("No award for damages under this chapter shall include punitive or exemplary damages or interest prior to judgment.").

AFFIRMED.¹

WILLIAMS, C.J., and GEATHERS and TURNER, JJ., concur.

¹ We decide this case without oral argument pursuant to Rule 215, SCACR.