

**RECEIVED**

**Jun 25 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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Appeal from Sumter County

Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

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THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

MUSTAFA SALAAM

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2024-001620

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MOTION TO HOLD APPEAL IN ABEYANCE PENDING RECEIPT OF TRANSCRIPTS

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Counsel for Appellant, Mustafa Salaam, respectfully moves to hold the above-captioned case in abeyance pending receipt of complete transcripts. There have been no prior extensions granted in this case. In support of this request, counsel shows:

1. Appellant was indicted by the Sumter County Grand Jury for murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime, and attempted murder.
2. Appellant's case was called to a bench trial on September 9, 2024, before the Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Jr. M. Lavan Green, Jr. and Edgar R. Donald, Jr. of the Sumter County Public Defender's office represented Appellant. Megan E. Raymer, Caroline A. Hughes, and Joel A. Kozak were the solicitors prosecuting for the State.

3. The court found appellant guilty of murder, possession of a weapon during a violent crime, and attempted murder. Judge Cothran sentenced appellant to life in prison for murder and a concurrent thirty years for attempted murder.

4. This case is now on appeal before this Court.

5. On December 17, 2024, the Office of Appellant Defense requested the complete trial transcript, September 9-13, 2024. The Office of Appellate Defense received the trial transcript on March 10, 2025.

6. Upon reviewing the transcript received, counsel discovered the transcript did not contain a hearing regarding a motion for bench trial. That hearing was held on July 29, 2024. Apparently, given the trial court's order granting the motion and subsequent bench trial, Appellant waived his right to a jury trial at that hearing.

7. Counsel immediately sent a transcript request but inadvertently provided the incorrect date of the hearing. Upon filing an extension request, the Court responded that extension was not necessary until after the transcript is received, which was expected on June 30, 2025. *See* Exhibit A attached to this motion.

8. On May 27, 2025, counsel made a second transcript request for the July 29 transcript. *See* Exhibit B attached to this motion. That request has been assigned to a court reporter who indicates it will be "a few weeks" before the hearing transcript is prepared. *See* Exhibit B.

9. Counsel discovered the missing hearing early and endeavored to prepare this motion before taking any extensions in Appellant's case.

Counsel respectfully requests that this Court hold the above-captioned case in abeyance pending receipt of the complete transcripts. Counsel also requests that the time limits for filing the initial brief and designation of mater be held in abeyance pending disposition of this motion.

Counsel recognizes holding the case in abeyance for what may be only two weeks is abnormal and could be unnecessary. However, there have been no assurances of any specific date by which the transcript will be completed, so out of an abundance of caution abeyance is the preferred course of action. It may be over a month before this transcript is complete. Given the important nature of the rights Appellant apparently waived at that hearing—his rights to a jury trial and unanimous verdict—it is necessary to have that transcript before substantial work on the appeal begins.

Respectfully submitted,



Jordan M. Wayburn  
Appellate Defender  
Attorney for Appellant

This 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

# EXHIBIT A

**FW: [External] The State v. Mustafa A. Salaam - #2024-001620**

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From Stock, Chris <cstock@sccid.sc.gov>  
Date Tue 5/20/2025 11:41 AM  
To Wayburn, Jordan <JWayburn@sccid.sc.gov>

Forwarding FYI

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**From:** Fuller, Tonisha <TFuller@sccourts.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Stock, Chris <cstock@sccid.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] The State v. Mustafa A. Salaam - #2024-001620

Good Morning Chris,

Please allow this email to serve as confirmation that our records reflect that additional transcript was ordered in this appeal on May 1, 2025. At present, that transcript is due to be delivered by June 30, 2025. I will disregard the extension request received by our office since the initial brief is currently not due to be filed.

If there are any other questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call.

Have a wonderful day!

*Tonisha Fuller*

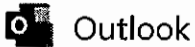
Senior Appeals Specialist  
South Carolina Court of Appeals  
(803) 734-1890  
Efiling: [ctappfilings@sccourts.org](mailto:ctappfilings@sccourts.org)

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# EXHIBIT B



Outlook

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[External] Re: UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number 2022GS4301300

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From Reed, Keshia T. <KReed@sccourts.org>  
Date Tue 6/24/2025 6:06 PM  
To White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>  
Cc Wayburn, Jordan <JWayburn@sccid.sc.gov>

Good evening,

It will be a few weeks. I go on vacation in a couple days.

Keshia Reed  
Circuit Court Reporter  
Post Office Box 12190  
Florence, SC 29504-2190

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**From:** White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 10:48 AM  
**To:** Reed, Keshia T. <KReed@sccourts.org>  
**Cc:** Wayburn, Jordan <JWayburn@sccid.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number 2022GS4301300

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside the organization. Please exercise caution before clicking any links or opening attachments. \*\*\*

Good morning,

Not rushing but wondered if you had an estimate of time for when this transcript may be ready? We need to update the court.

Thank you so much!

Della

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**From:** White, Della <dwhite@sccid.sc.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 11:07 AM  
**To:** Wayburn, Jordan <JWayburn@sccid.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: [External] UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number 2022GS4301300

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**From:** [Transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:Transcripts@sccourts.org) <[Transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:Transcripts@sccourts.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2025 2:17 PM  
**To:** White, Della <[dwhite@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:dwhite@sccid.sc.gov)>; [transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org)  
**Subject:** [External] UPDATED: Transcript Request for Docket Number 2022GS4301300

Greetings,

You are receiving this notice for the **summarized Transcript Request shown below** because it has been **Accepted** by Court Reporter: Reed, Keshia T.( [KReed@sccourts.org](mailto:KReed@sccourts.org) )  
Should you have questions or need further assistance, please contact us at [transcripts@sccourts.org](mailto:transcripts@sccourts.org).

Regards,

Court Administration

Summarized Transcript Request ID(s): **764333409**

## Requester Information:

**Name:** Della White  
**Entity:** Agency SCCID  
**Phone Number:** (803) 734-1330  
**Email:** [dwhite@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:dwhite@sccid.sc.gov)  
**Address:** 1330 Lady Street Columbia, SC 29201  
**Is the requester a party on the case?** No  
**Does the requester represent a party?** Yes Mustafa Salaam

## Transcript Information:

**Docket Number:** 2022GS4301300  
**Court Type:** Circuit  
**County:** Sumter  
**Case Caption:** The State of South Carolina vs Salaam, Mustafa Abdur  
**Appeal Pending?** Court of Appeals  
**Death Penalty?** No  
**Start Date of Proceeding:** 7/29/2024  
**End Date of Proceeding:** 7/29/2024  
**Presiding Judge:** Cothran Jr., R. Ferrell  
**Court reporter daily assignments:**  
**07/29/2024:** Reed, Keshia T.  
**Opposing Counsel and/or other parties information:**  
(Attorney) Edgar R. Jr. Donald  
(Defendant) Mustafa Abdur Salaam  
**Next hearing date:** *Date not entered*  
**Portion of proceeding to be transcribed:** Entire Hearing

# Delivery Information:

**Delivery Timeframe:** Regular Delivery (60 days)

**Delivery Method:** PDF/Email

**Delivery Timeframe:** Court Appointed Counsel

**Appeals Attorney:** SCCID

**Email:** [dwhite@sccid.sc.gov](mailto:dwhite@sccid.sc.gov)

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**Jun 25 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
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Appeal from Sumter County

Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

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THE STATE,

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MUSTAFA SALAAM

APPELLANT

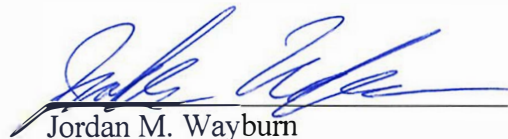
APPELLATE CASE NO. 2024-001620

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Motion to Hold in Abeyance in the above referenced case has been served on Melody J. Brown, Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS), this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.



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Jordan M. Wayburn  
Appellate Defender

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

**From:** [Stock, Chris](#)  
**To:** [Melody Brown](#); [Angela Brown](#)  
**Cc:** [Wayburn, Jordan](#)  
**Subject:** 2024-001620 - The State v. Mustafa Salaam - Motion to Hold in Abeyance  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2025 4:13:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [2024-001620 - The State v. Mustafa Salaam - Motion to Hold in Abeyance.pdf](#)

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Ms. Brown,

Please find attached for service the Motion to Hold in Abeyance for Mustafa Salaam's appeal which will be filed with the Court of Appeals today.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

**Chris Stock**  
Administrative Coordinator  
Commission on Indigent Defense  
Appellate Division  
(803) 734-1330