

The South Carolina Court of Appeals

Hulsey Law Group, LLC, Respondent

v.

Robin M. Schoepfel, Jessica Lynn Schoepfel, and
Nicholas Mark Schoepfel, Appellants.

Appellate Case No. 2025-000355

ORDER

On May 28, 2025, Appellants filed a motion to seal three exhibits that they submitted under seal to the circuit court and to redact quotations from the sealed exhibits in their publicly filed brief. Respondent filed a return, opposing the motion. Although there is no provision in the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules for sealing records in the appellate court, the court has the power to control its own records. *See Ex parte Capital U-Drive-It, Inc.*, 369 S.C. 1, 12, 630 S.E.2d 464, 470 (2006). Rule 41.1(b) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure requires the moving party to state the reasons why sealing is necessary, explain why less drastic alternatives to sealing will not afford adequate protection, and address the following factors:

(1) ensuring the parties' right to a fair trial or hearing; (2) the need for witness cooperation; (3) the reliance of the parties upon expectations of confidentiality of the proceeding; (4) the public or professional significance of the proceeding; (5) the perceived harm to the parties from disclosure; (6) why alternatives other than sealing the documents are not available to protect legitimate private interests; and (7) why the public interest, including, but not limited to, the public health and safety, is best served by sealing the documents.

After careful consideration of the filings, the motion to seal is granted.

Kush Curtis

FOR THE COURT

Columbia, South Carolina

FILED
Jul 08 2025

cc:

Christian Stegmaier, Esquire
Evan Markus Gessner, Esquire
Michael C Bunda, Esquire
Jonathan M. Robinson, Esquire
Shanon N. Peake, Esquire
George Murrell Smith, Jr., Esquire
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